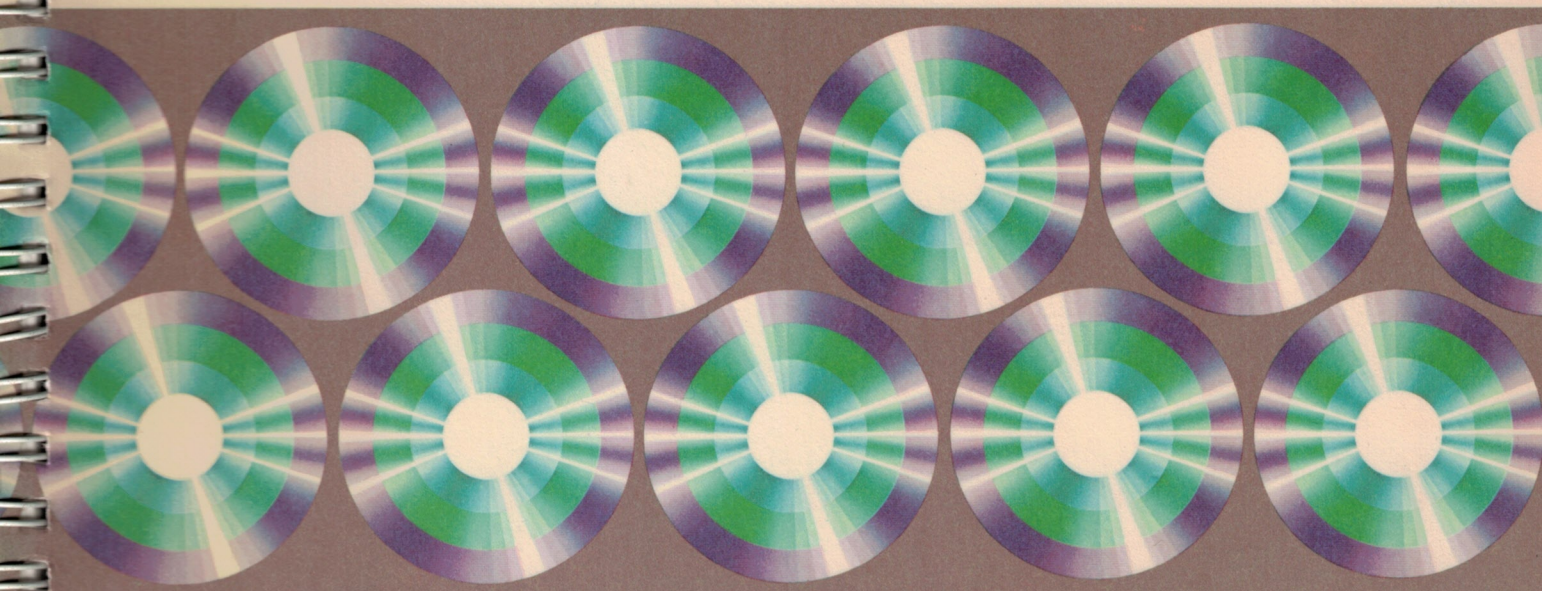
ROVER



The Product Insight Programme

THE PRODUCT INSIGHT PROGRAMME

Rover

Issue 1: January 1982

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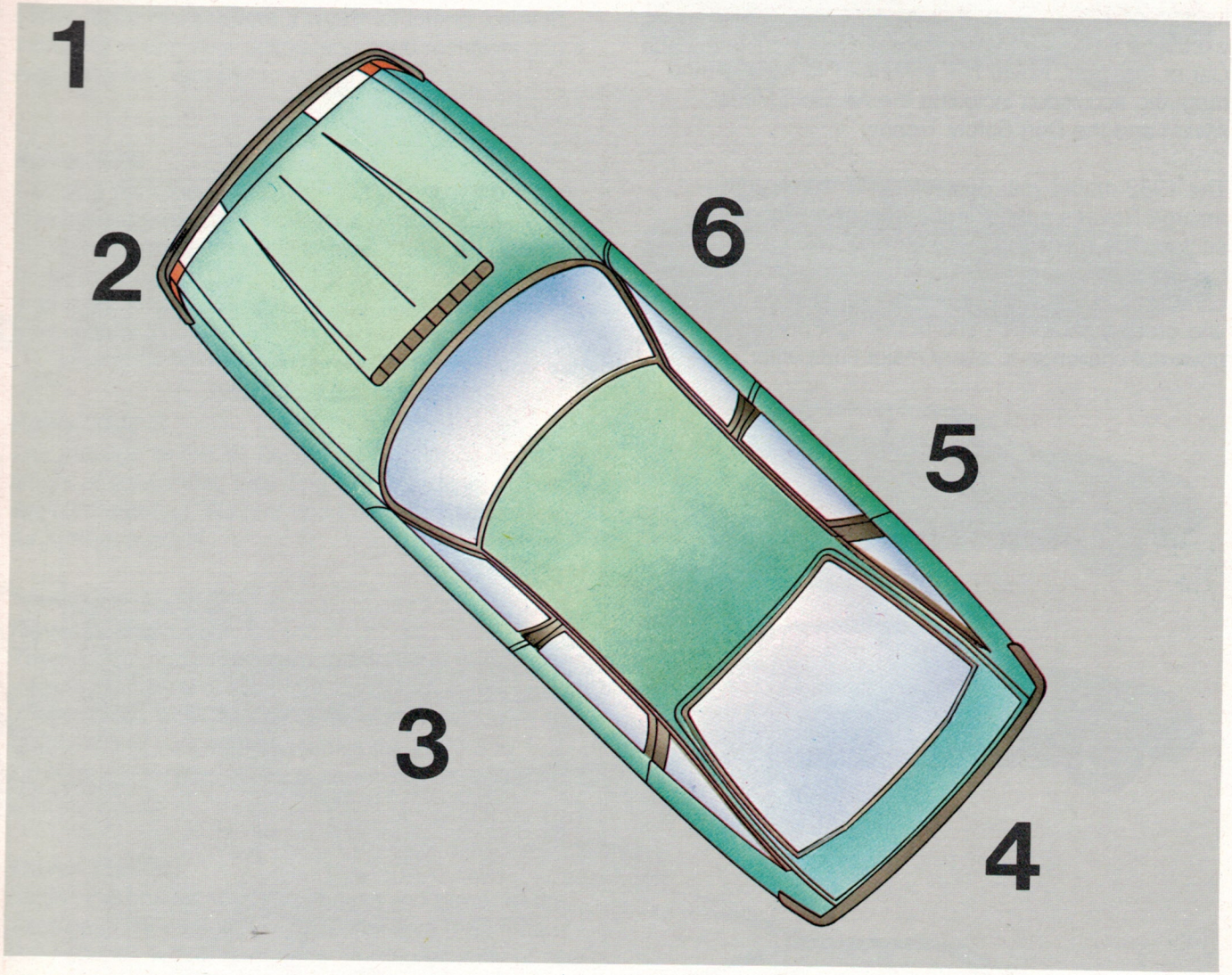
INTRODUCTION



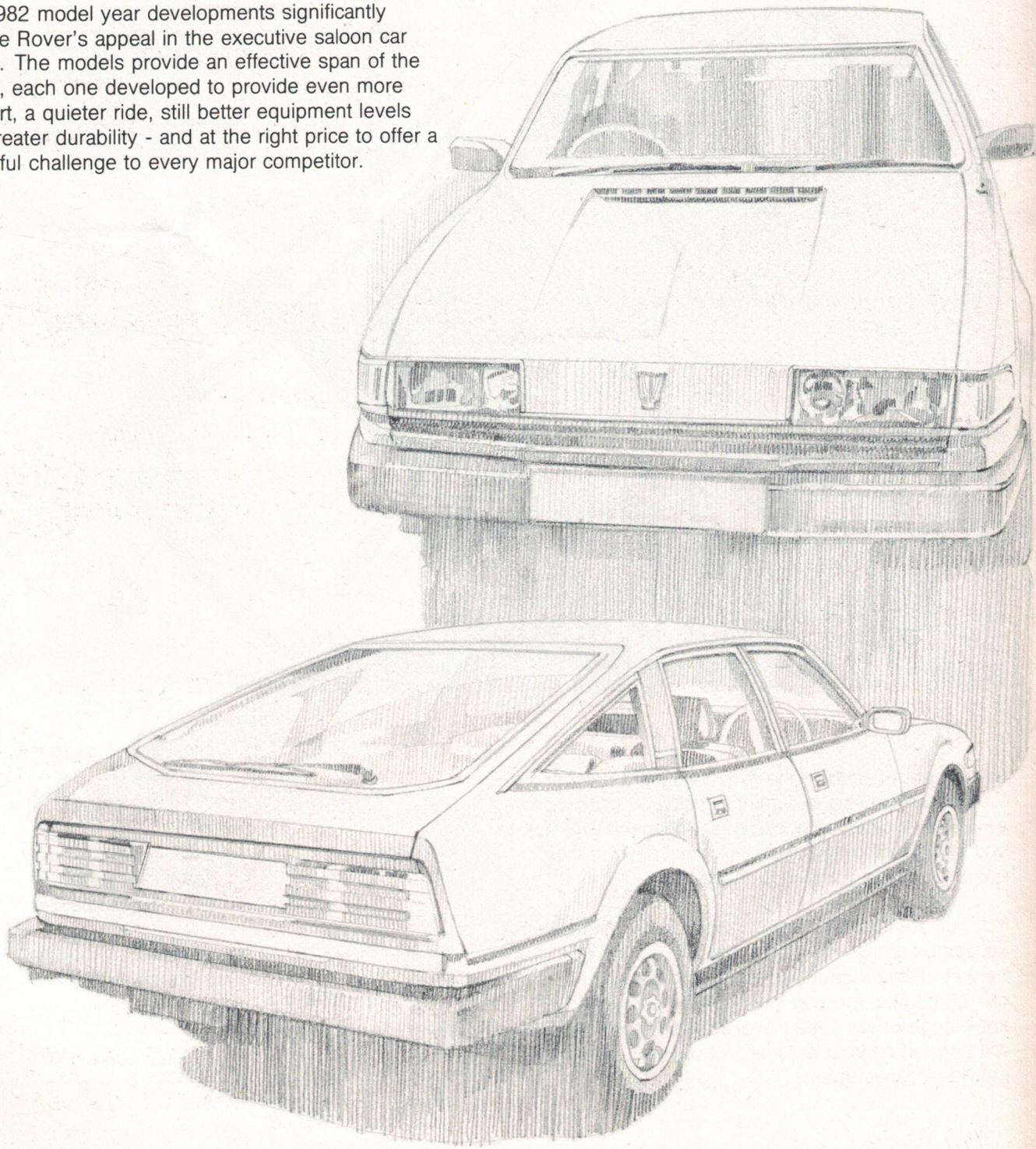
Like all publications in the Product Insight Programme Series, this book is designed to help you learn as quickly and easily as possible. But to make sure that you can give the book your full attention, you must ensure that you work on it undisturbed.

You will see that this book is structured in line with the six stages of the walkround. The aim is to fit every key benefit of Rover directly into your presentation of the car. Of course, the way in which you use your knowledge of the 1982 Rover's features and benefits will depend on your assessment of your customer's individual requirements.

THE ROVER RANGE

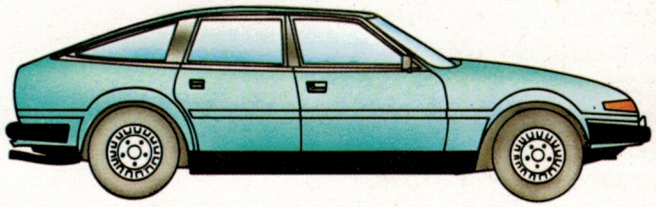
The Rover marque embodies standards of quality, luxury and performance that are unique among the top executive saloons of today. Hailed at its launch as the Car of the Year, Rover has continued to win coveted motoring accolades including the AA Gold Medal Award and the Don Safety Trophy.

The 1982 model year developments significantly enlarge Rover's appeal in the executive saloon car sector. The models provide an effective span of the sector, each one developed to provide even more comfort, a quieter ride, still better equipment levels and greater durability - and at the right price to offer a powerful challenge to every major competitor.

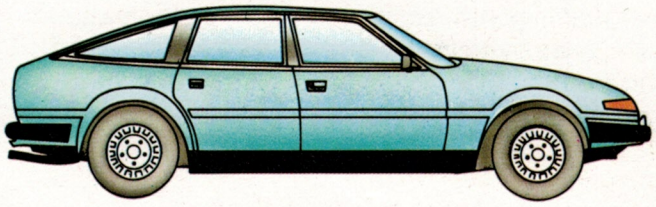


The Range

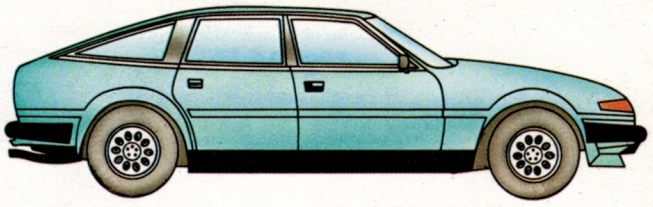
Rover 2000
Hard to describe as a 'base' model, the economical '0' series 2000 Rover offers a wealth of interior comfort, including velour seat upholstery, head restraints and a radio and twin speakers.



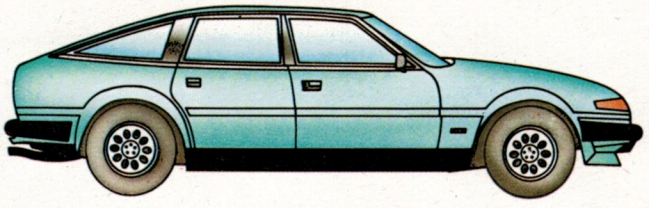
Rover 2300
Carrying over the high equipment levels of the Rover 2000 this model offers increased engine power for those requiring extra performance. The three additional features of intermittent wipe, programmed wash/wipe and an oil level warning lamp give it that slight edge on specification.



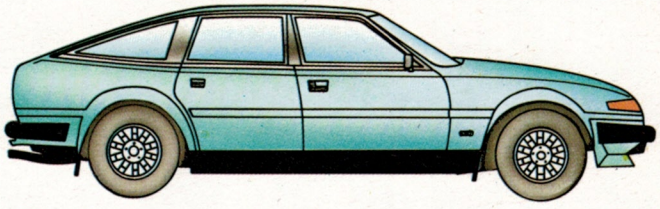
Rover 2300 S
The prestige of the 'S' badging is backed up by higher levels of equipment, including centre locking, power assisted steering, sunroof and front seats adjustable for lumbar support.



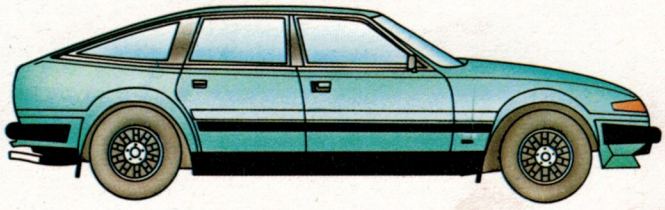
Rover 2600 S
Offering the additional power of the larger 6-cylinder engine, the 2600 S has more valuable features as well - satin finish wood door inserts, electric windows and self-levelling suspension enables the 2600 S to provide a complete package as an executive saloon.



Rover 3500 SE
Under the bonnet, the smoothness and power of the aluminium V8 engine, which combines a 0-60 time of 8.9 seconds with a staggering cruising ecnomy of over 36 mpg. On the outside, tinted glass, alloy wheels, front foglights, and on the inside, a 4-speaker radio and stereo-cassette player, are some of the features that mark the Rover 3500 SE as being the very special car that it is.

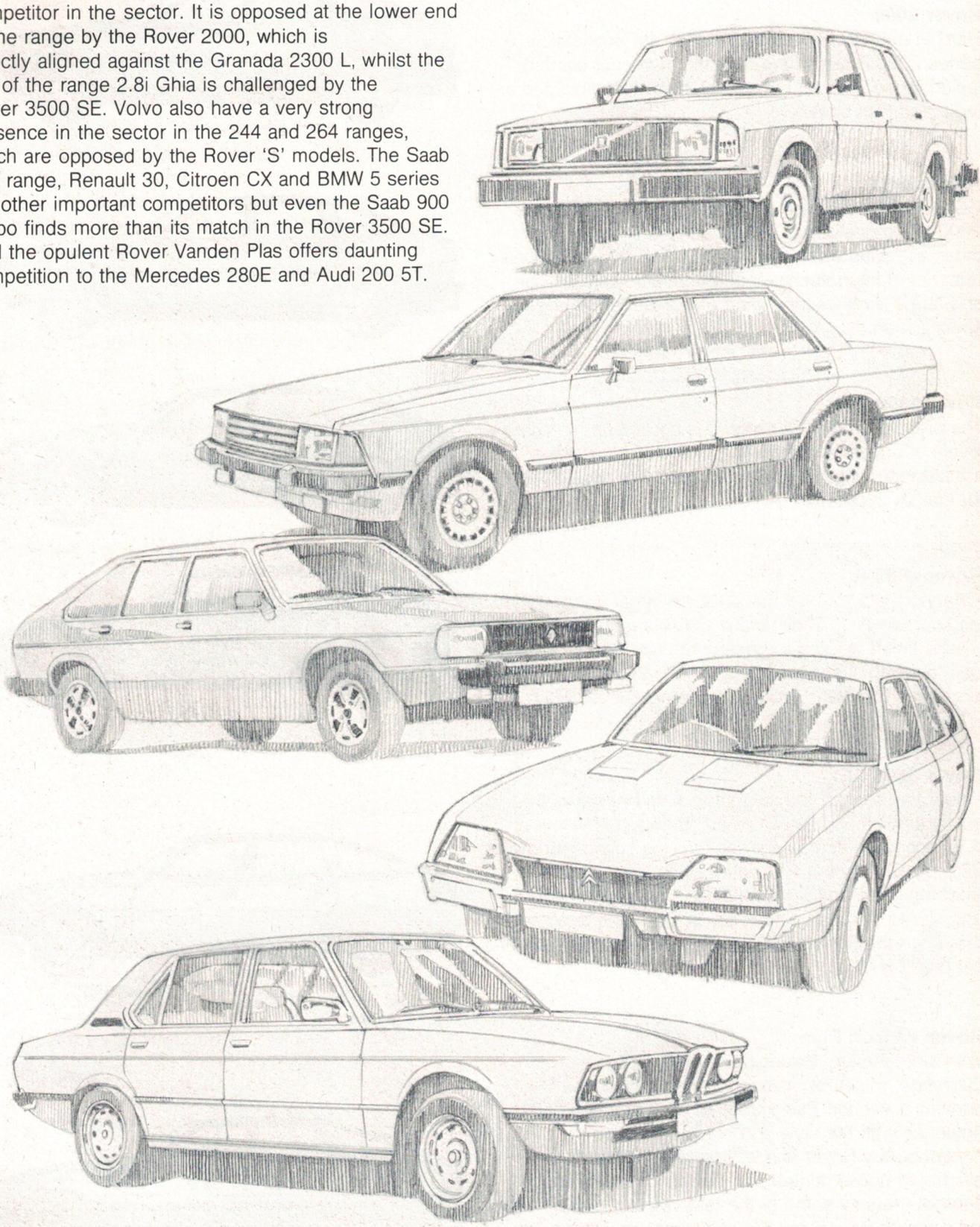


Rover Vanden Plas
With all the luxury belonging to the top model of the range, the Rover Vanden Plas combines the traditional Vanden Plas virtues of craftsmanship and opulence with the style and versatility of the contemporary Rover image. Leather upholstery, electronic cruise control and electric operation for sunroof are only some of the features that make this the ultimate Rover, and the ultimate choice as a luxury executive saloon.



The competition

The Ford Granada is without doubt the major competitor in the sector. It is opposed at the lower end of the range by the Rover 2000, which is directly aligned against the Granada 2300 L, whilst the top of the range 2.8i Ghia is challenged by the Rover 3500 SE. Volvo also have a very strong presence in the sector in the 244 and 264 ranges, which are opposed by the Rover 'S' models. The Saab 900 range, Renault 30, Citroen CX and BMW 5 series are other important competitors but even the Saab 900 Turbo finds more than its match in the Rover 3500 SE. And the opulent Rover Vanden Plas offers daunting competition to the Mercedes 280E and Audi 200 5T.



1

In addition to its distinctive appearance, Rover's new front end also offers a number of important safety benefits. These include laminated windscreen and halogen headlamps on all models, bronze tinted glass and twin front foglamps on the 3500 SE and headlamps power wash on the Vanden Plas. The models from the 2300 S upwards also sport a colour-keyed spoiler, which distinguishes the 1982 Rovers.

Rover 2000

The most significant change to the front end of the 1982 Rover is the black plastic grille which, together with the new bright headlamp surrounds and black bumpers, gives the car a sporty, aggressive appearance. The concealed two speed wipers have a flick wipe facility and the new fan spray electric washers give a more even discharge of water.

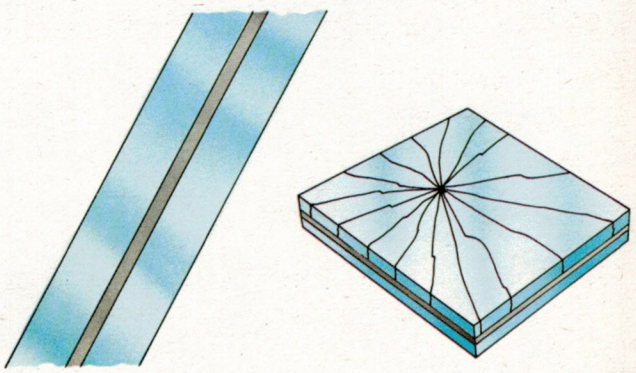
In addition to these styling and equipment features the Rover 2000 benefits from two major safety features.

Halogen headlamps

Quartz halogen headlamps give more powerful illumination for night or bad weather driving.

Laminated windscreen

Rovers are fitted with a laminated windscreen which, because of its plastic interlayer, prevents the driver or front seat passenger being thrown through the windscreen in a serious accident. The laminated screen is also resistant to crazing, so retains good visibility even if hit by a flying stone.



Rover 2300 over 2000

Although the front end of the 2300 is identical to the 2000 it does have two major features which make a further contribution to safety.

Intermittent wipe

The 2300 has an intermittent wipe, instead of the flick wipe. One flick of the wiperstalk sets the blades into action and they continue to sweep automatically, every few seconds, until cancelled by flicking the stalk again.

Programmed wash/wipe

One press on the washer button activates not only a powerful fan spray of water to the screen but simultaneously operates the wipers, which sweep the screen six times.

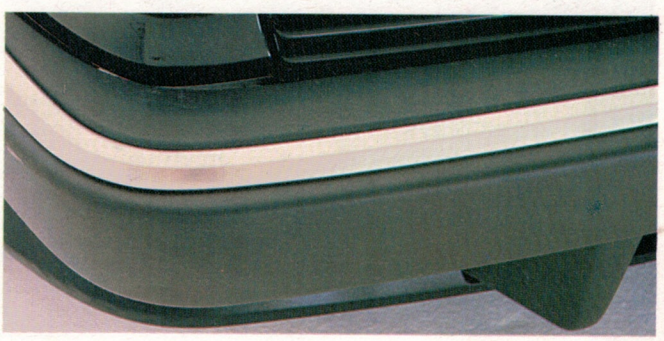
2300 S and 2600 S over 2300

Bright bumper top face

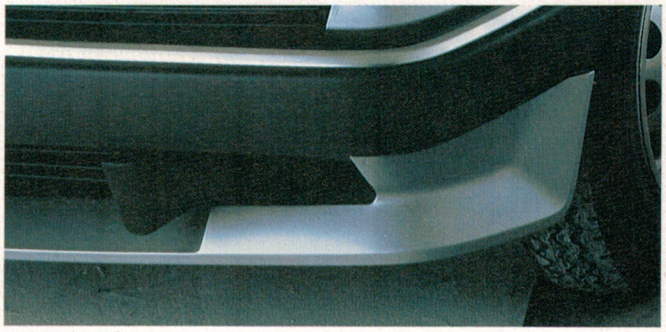
The 2300 S and 2600 S models have bright top faces on the bumpers which provide a sharp visual contrast as well as enhancing the new front end styling.

In addition the S models also have one major feature which distinguishes them from the base models.

From the photographs, what is the major feature that differentiates the 2300S/2600 S from the 2300 model?



Colour keyed spoiler.



Colour keyed spoiler
The sculptured front spoiler not only adds to the Rover's elegant styling but also contributes to its aerodynamic efficiency.

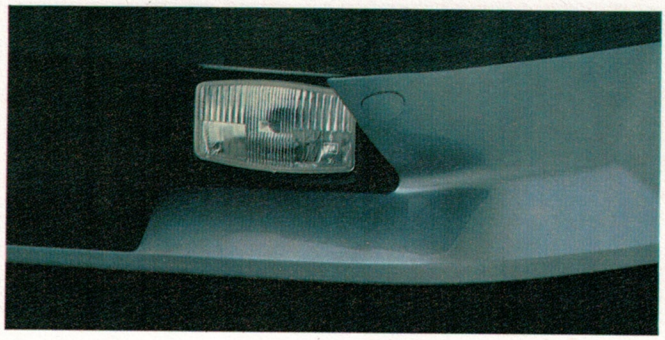
3500 SE over 2600 S

Building on the high specification of the 'S' models the 3500 SE has two major distinguishing features.

Bronze tinted glass
Giving the extra mark of distinction, the bronze tinted glass combines good looks with the added benefit of reduced glare and solar heating.

From the photographs, what is the other major feature that differentiates the 3500 SE from the 2600 S model?

Twin front fog lamps



Twin fog lamps
The well-positioned quartz halogen fog lamps are mounted beneath the bumper and improve forward visibility in bad weather.

Vanden Plas over 3500 SE

Two major features mark the top of the range Vanden Plas contributing to both comfort and safety.

Headlamp pressure wash
Pressure jets, positioned in the bumper, provide an efficient cleaning system to keep the headlamps free from mud - a great convenience and a valuable safety asset.

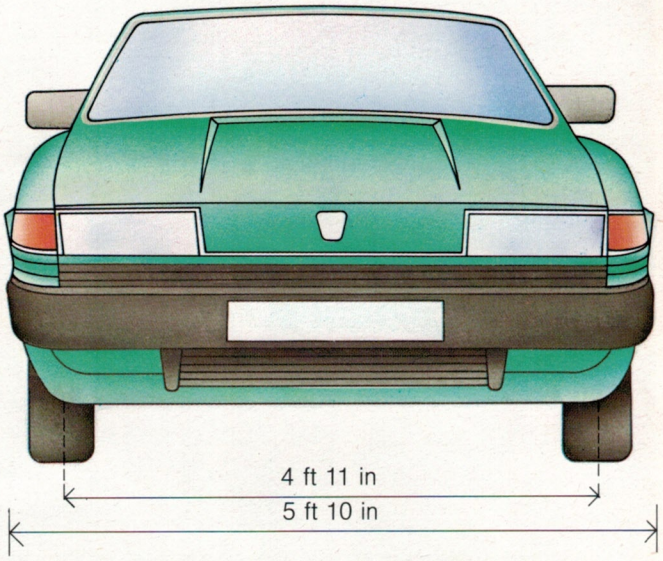
From the photographs, what other major feature differentiates the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

Zone tinted windscreen.

Zone tinted windscreen
Zone tinted glass is darker at the top of the screen, gradually shading to the normal light tint, so it gives the driver additional protection from glare without obscuring his vision.

Width 5 ft 10 in

With a width of 5 ft 10 ins the Rover has a wide track to body width ratio of 0.84, which is better than that of the Volvo and Granada and equal to that of the Renault 30. The wide track, as well as contributing to Rover's outstanding roadholding and handling, provides plenty of room for three adults to sit in comfort on the back seat.



	Body width	Track	Ratio
Rover	**5 ft 10 in**	**4 ft 11 in**	**0.84**
Ford Granada	5 ft 11 in	4 ft 11 in	0.83
Citroen CX	5 ft 8 in	4 ft 10 in	0.85
Renault 30	5 ft 8 in	4 ft 9 in	0.84
Volvo	5 ft 7 in	4 ft 5 in	0.79

You have now completed this section. Before you go to Position 2, you should ensure that you get all the answers right in the following test.

End of Section Test

1. What are the two major safety features fitted to all Rover models?

2. What two additional safety features are fitted to the Rover 2300?

3. What are the two major features that differentiate the 2300 S from the 2300?

4. What are the two major features that differentiate the 3500 SE from the 2600 S?

5. What are the two major features that differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

6. What is the width of Rover?

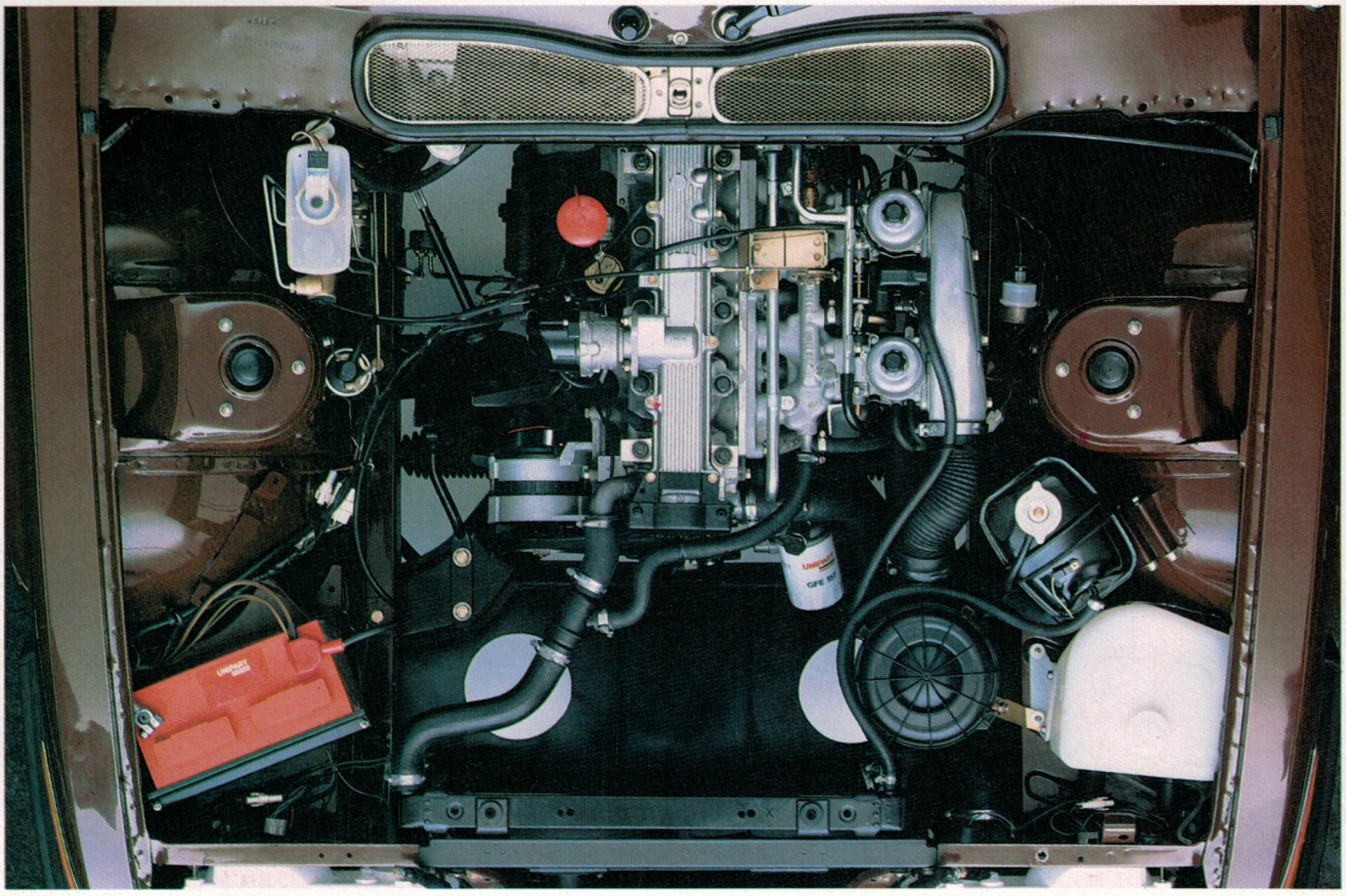
End of Section Test

1. What are the two major safety features fitted to all Rover models?	a) Laminated screen. b) Halogen headlamps.
2. What two additional safety features are fitted to the Rover 2300?	a) Intermittent wipe. b) Programmed wash/wipe.
3. What are the two major features that differentiate the 2300 S from the 2300?	a) Bright bumper top face. b) Colour keyed spoiler.
4. What are the two major features that differentiate the 3500 SE from the 2600 S?	a) Bronze tinted glass. b) Front fog lamps.
5. What are the two major features that differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?	a) Zone tinted windscreen. b) Headlamp pressure wash.
6. What is the width of Rover?	5 ft 10 ins.

2

Behind the Rover's smooth effortless performance and remarkable fuel economy are three highly distinctive power units. The economical 2 litre '0' series engine, newly introduced to the 1982 Rover range; the 2300 and 2600 six cylinder engines developed specifically for the new generation of Rovers; whilst the all-aluminium V8 has an engineering pedigree as distinguished as that of the Rover marque itself.

Different though they are in configuration and background, all three power units share a number of valuable features contributing to performance and economy, such as the cross-flow head and twin-outlet exhaust, and the diagnostic service plug which brings the benefits of simplified servicing to all Rover owners.



2000 '0' series 4-cylinder engine

The 2 litre four-cylinder '0' series engine, introduced into the 1982 Rover range, provides an alternative power unit to the 2300 engine on the base model. The '0' series engine has already proven itself in the Ital and Princess model ranges and has established an excellent reputation for reliability and ease of servicing. Another important benefit of the '0' series engine is its inherent good fuel economy and it is for this reason that it has been introduced into the Rover range. However, to maintain the performance associated with the Rover range this latest application of the '0' series engine acquires twin carburettors.

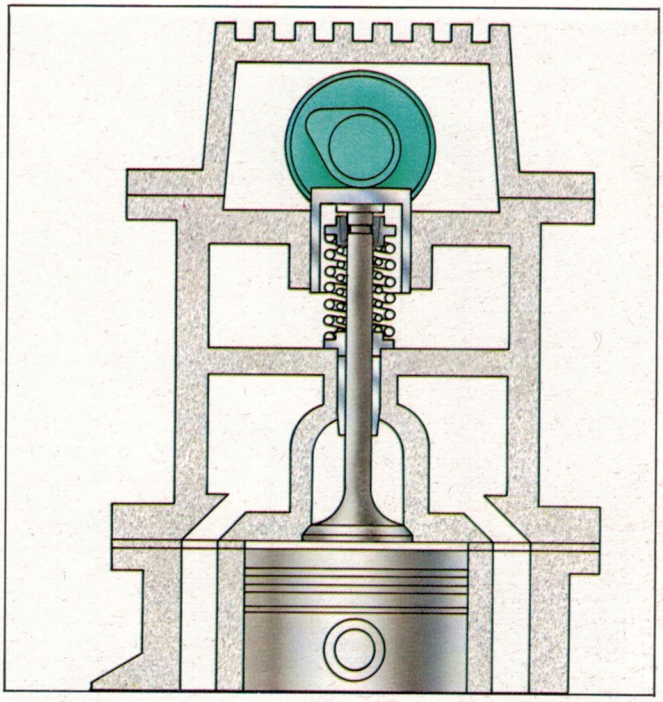
Of the '0' series' many features there are three in particular that contribute to better performance, economy and refinement.

Engine data

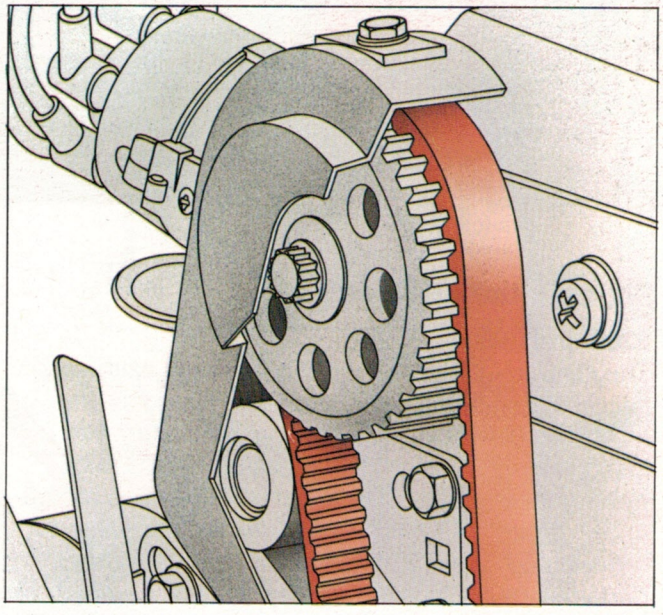
The 2000 engine develops 100 bhp at 5250 rpm providing ample power for the Rover. The maximum torque of 120 lb ft is achieved at only 3250 rpm, which together with the five speed gearbox gives the flexibility needed for lively performance.

Capacity (cc)	1994
Cylinders	4
Bore (mm)	84.5
Stroke (mm)	89.0
Compression ratio: 1	9.0
Carburettors	2 SU HIF44
Max power (bhp) at rpm	100 at 5250
Max torque at rpm	120 at 3250

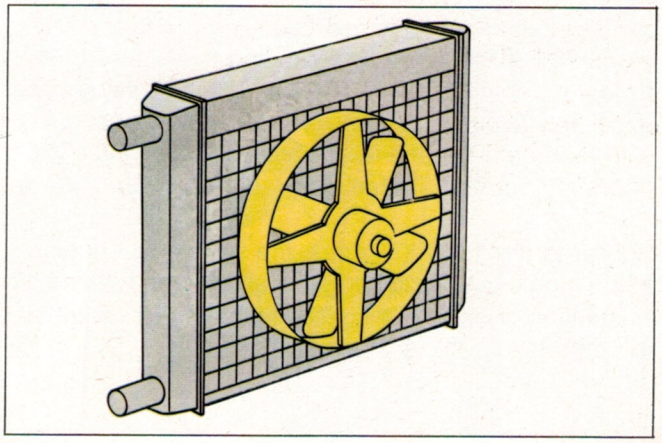
Single overhead camshaft
The single overhead camshaft has the important benefits of quieter running and greater reliability because it has fewer moving parts than a conventional push-rod assembly.

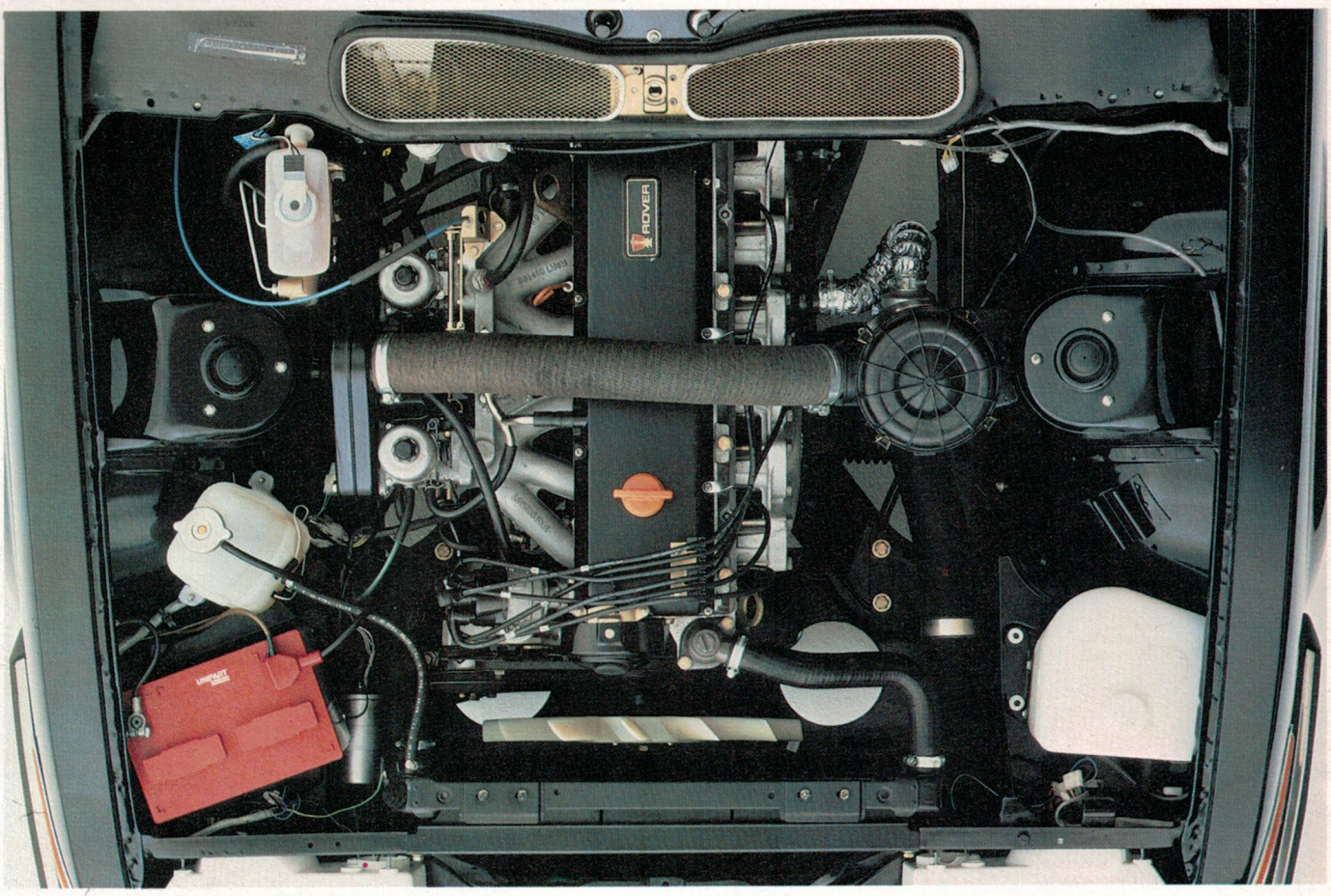


Toothed drive belt
The drive belt, which is made from oil-resistant rubber moulded onto non-stretch cord, replaces the conventional drive chain. It has the benefits of quiet running, simplicity of production and freedom from tensioning problems.



Electric cooling fan
The electric cooling fan contributes to the quietness of the car as well as to lower fuel consumption, by only operating when the additional cooling is actually needed.





Six-cylinder engines

2300 and 2600

The OHC six-cylinder engine has proved extremely successful in terms of performance, economy and reliability. Combining engineering refinement with straightforward design, the principles behind the development of the six-cylinder were neatly summed up by 'Motor': ''The engine follows the principles so brilliantly laid down in the 3500. Simplicity with performance through clever engineering''.

A good example of this approach is the use of aluminium for the cylinder head and camshaft carrier, (a feature shared with '0' series). This not only allows extremely accurate shaping of inlet and exhaust tracts with a smooth surface finish, but also contributes to economy because it promotes rapid warm up.

Similar to the 2000 '0' series, the six-cylinder engine has a single overhead camshaft and toothed drive belt. In addition, it has three special features that contribute to combustion efficiency and refinement.

2300

With 134 lb ft torque generated at 4000 rpm, the 2300 engine produces near maximum torque at around only 3000 rpm which provides the cylinders with excellent tractability over all engine speeds.

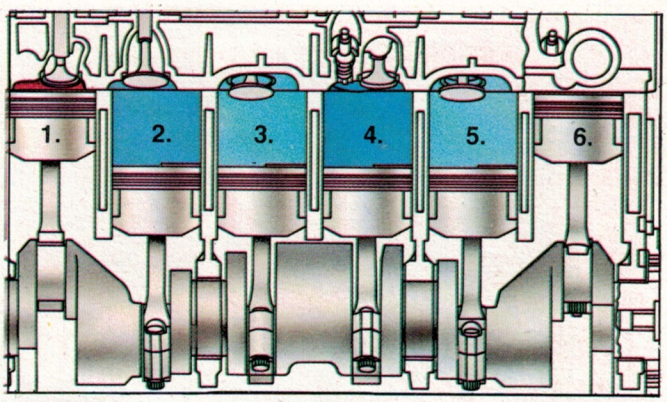
2600

The 2600 produces maximum bhp at 250 rpm less than the 2300, and the maximum torque of 152 lb ft is also generated at lower rpm. With its higher power output giving a better power to weight ratio, the 2600 Rover gives an ideal combination of spirited performance and competitive fuel economy.

Engine data	2300	2600
Capacity (cc)	2350	2597
Cylinders	6	6
Bore (mm)	81	81
Stroke (mm)	76	84
Compression ratio: 1	9.25	9.25
Carburettors	2 SU HIF44	2 SU HIF44
Max power (bhp) at rpm	118 at 5250	130 at 5000
Max torque (lb ft) at rpm	134 at 4000	152 at 3750

1. Six-cylinder configuration

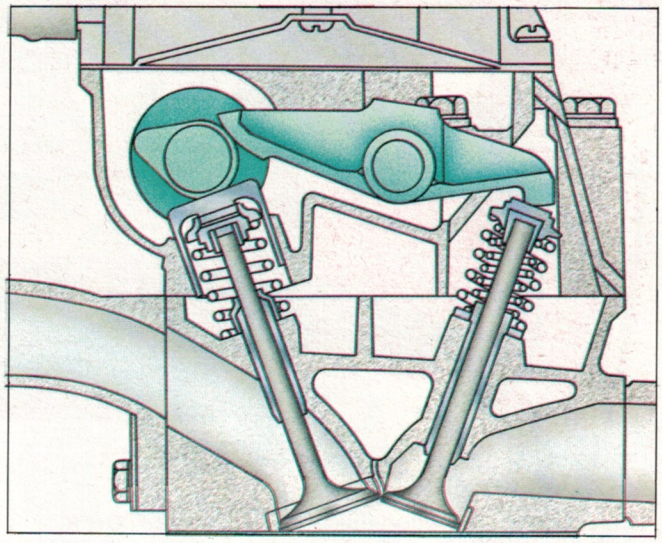
With six cylinders in line, the power strokes overlap. This results in more even torque delivery, which is especially valuable at low speed in promoting a smooth flow of power.



1. ignition
2. compression
3. induction
4. compression
5. induction
6. ignition

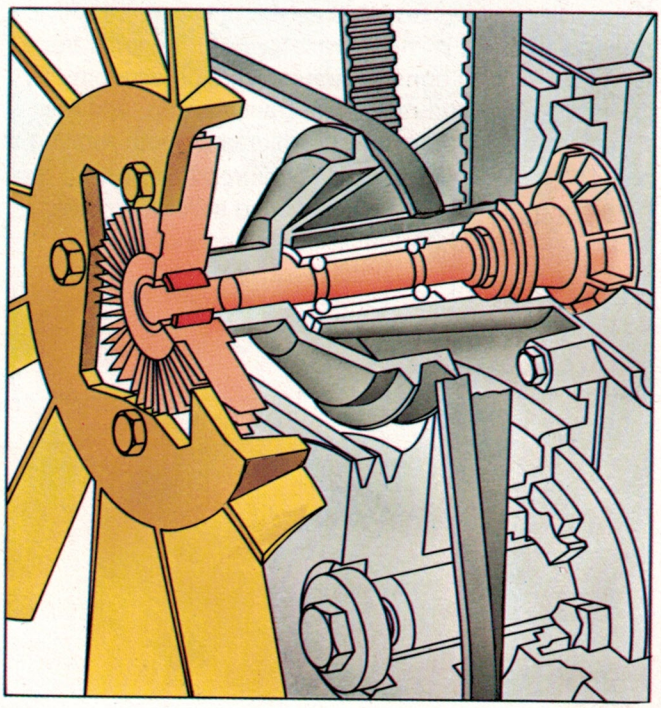
2. Special valve operation

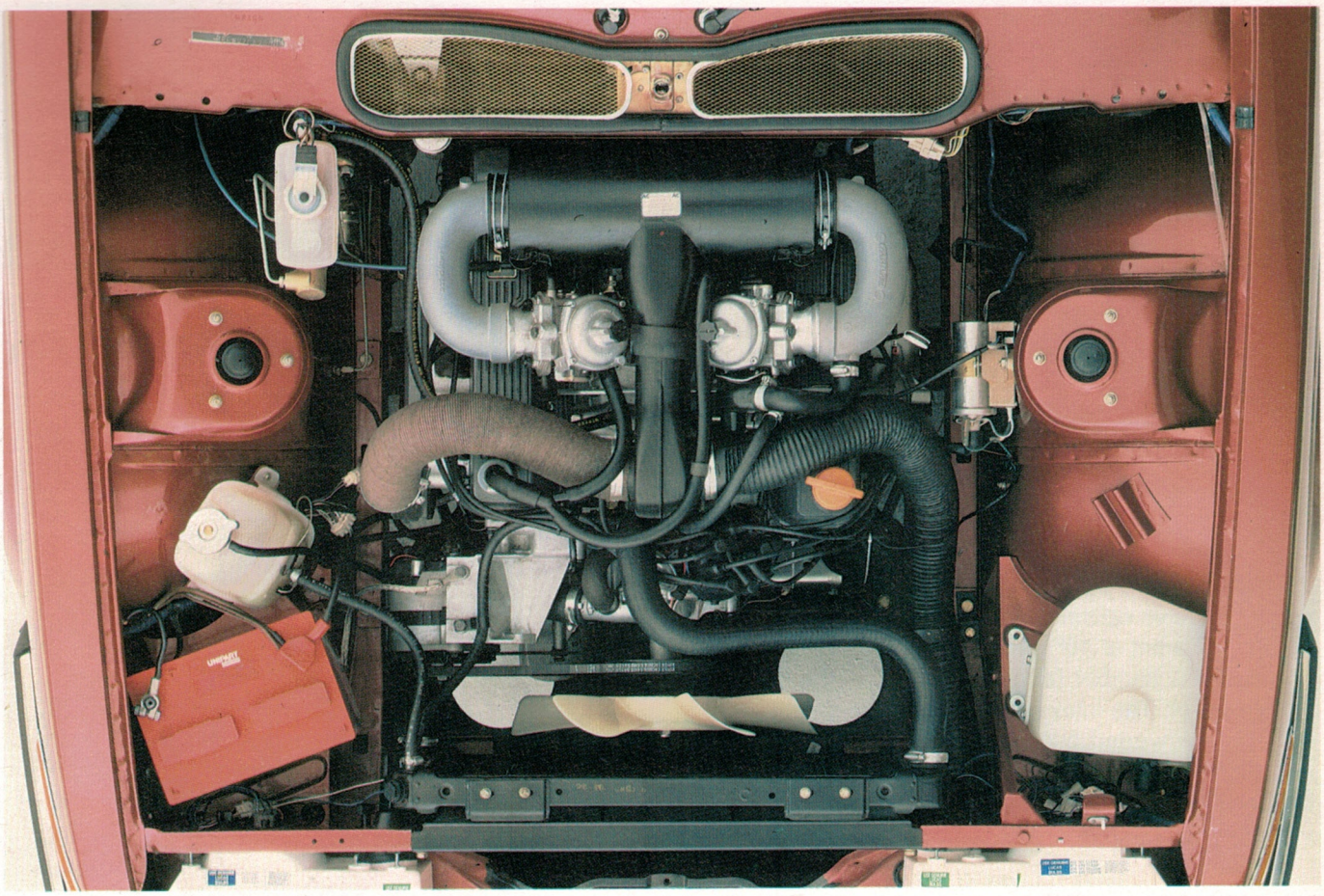
A special valve operation mechanism enables the valves to be set at 40° - the optimum angle for the combustion chamber (a highly efficient modified hemisphere). The inlet valve is operated directly by the cam via an inverted bucket tappet. The exhaust valve is activated by a cast-iron rocker from the same cam. Both valves have chromium-plated stems for durability.



3. Viscous-coupled fan

Economy can also be achieved by not wasting engine power. In the Rover six-cylinder engines the viscous coupling of the fan means that once the optimum fan speed has been reached it is maintained even when the engine revs are much higher. This means that far less energy is drained from the engine than with a conventionally coupled fan. An additional benefit of viscous coupling is considerably quieter running.





3500 V8 engine

The powerful but economical 3500 engine, having proved itself in earlier Rover saloons and in the rugged Range Rover, was adopted as the power unit for the top-line saloons in the current range. It benefits from an all-aluminium construction which aids economy by its light weight and rapid heat transmission; and the rigid V8 configuration which ensures smooth running at all speeds. It has two special features that provide the benefits of refinement and reduced servicing costs, as well as improved performance and economy.

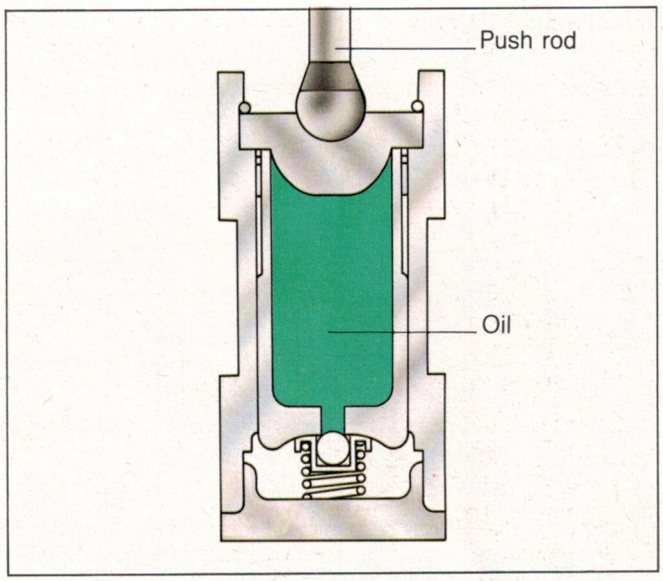
3500

The V8 engine is an outstanding example of effortless power, with 198 lb ft torque generated at only 2500 rpm - less than half way up its rev range of 5250 rpm.

Engine data	3500
Capacity (cc)	3520
Cylinders	V8
Bore (mm)	88.9
Stroke (mm)	71.1
Compression ratio: 1	9.35
Carburettors	2 Zenith 175 CDEF
Max power (bhp) at rpm	155 at 5250
Max torque (lb.ft) at rpm	198 at 2500

Hydraulic tappets

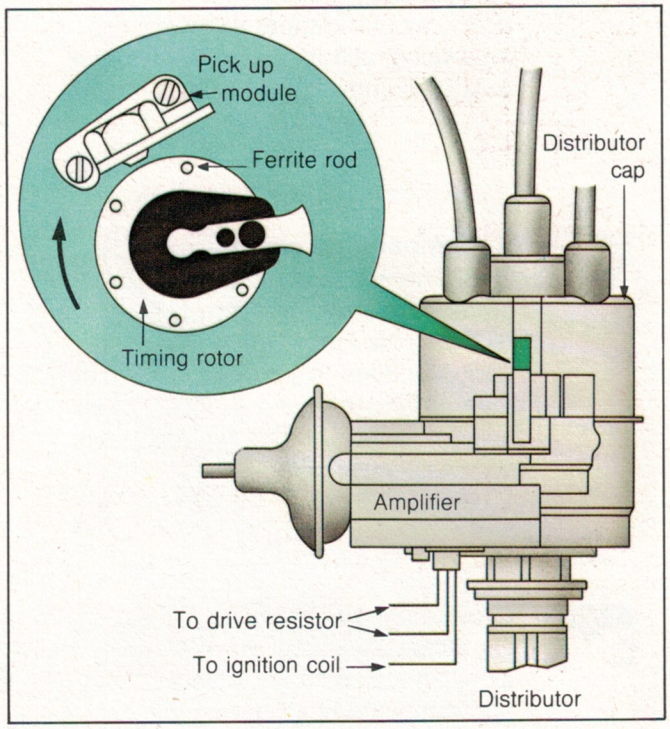
Hydraulic tappets operate without the need for clearances which means that they are very quiet. In addition, they do not require adjusting; so servicing time and costs are reduced.



Electronic ignition

Electronic ignition allows for very accurate timing to be established and, because there are no moving parts, the accuracy is constantly maintained.

Contact breaker points are subject to wear and need resetting frequently to keep the engine perfectly in time. With electronic ignition the timing remains within narrow limits. The stronger spark also allows a wider plug gap to be used, so plug fouling is reduced. This results in two major benefits: firstly, improved economy because fuel is used more efficiently; and secondly improved performance because the engine can run at higher revs when necessary.



Shared features

Different though the '0' series, six-cylinder and V8 engines are in configuration, they share a number of features which contribute towards excellent fuel economy and highly competitive performance.

Automatic choke

It is the traditional function of the choke to provide the enriched mixture that the engine requires to fire from cold and during the warm-up period. All Rovers are now fitted with an automatic choke, which is a small additional carburettor feeding a precisely metered amount of fuel/air mixture directly into the inlet manifold. It reacts both to engine fuel demands and to engine temperature. The advantages of the automatic choke are that control of the fuel is very precise, with benefits in fuel economy and cleaner exhaust emissions, and its action is, of course, entirely automatic.

Air temperature control

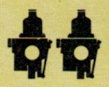
This device also improves performance and economy by reducing the length of the warm-up period. It does this by taking warm air from around the exhaust manifold and using it to ensure more thorough fuel vaporisation.

Cross-flow head

On all three engines the inlet and exhaust manifolds are situated opposite each other, giving the classic cross-flow design to the cylinder head. This gives greater combustion efficiency by ensuring quicker gas flow, so both performance and economy benefit.

Twin outlet exhaust

Linked to the benefit of the cross-flow head, the twin outlet exhaust also increases combustion efficiency and therefore improves performance and economy. A further benefit is that the twin outlet exhaust helps to clear the exhaust gases quickly, minimising the contamination of incoming mixture.



Twin carburettors

The twin carburettors are linked by their throttle controls, and promote efficient gas flow with an even distribution of fuel/air mixture to all cylinders. By providing a greater air flow capacity twin carburettors achieve substantial gains in performance and flexibility with little reduction in fuel economy.

Temperature compensating carburettors

These aid both performance and economy by preventing fuel wastage, especially during the warm-up period. A thermostat control regulates the fuel flow to compensate for changes in the fuel temperature.

Transmissions

Five-speed gearbox

The availability of a fifth gear to reduce engine revolutions at cruising speeds is a powerful aid to fuel economy. All Rovers are now fitted with a five-speed gearbox providing an overdrive fifth gear that keeps the engine revs down to a minimum for high speed motoring. (A five-speed gearbox is a no-cost option on the Vanden Plas).

	Mph per 1000 rpm	rpm at 70 mph
Rover 2000 *	**23.3**	**3000**
Rover 2300 *	**26.3**	**2660**
Rover 2600 *	**26.3**	**2660**
Rover 3500 *	**29.5**	**2370**
Granada 2.0	18.5	3780
Granada 2.3	19.6	3570
Granada 2.8	20.7	3380
Volvo 244 GL (O/D)	25.1	2790
Volvo 264	24.8	2820
Renault 30TX *	22.6	3100
Citroen CXTI	20.4	3430

* 5-speed transmission

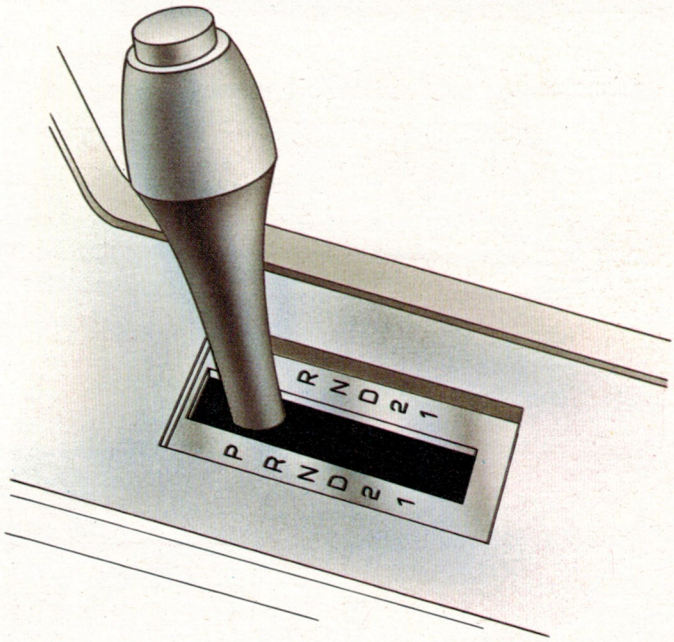
Automatic transmission

Automatic transmission is naturally a standard feature of the luxurious Vanden Plas, but it is also available as an option on all other models.

The main benefits of the 3-speed Borg Warner gearbox can be summarised as more relaxed driving, increased safety and reduced wear and tear to engine and transmission components.

Gear selection has been improved by the fitment of a lever with straight to-and-fro movement between D and 2. For other positions, a button on top of the gear lever is depressed to release the safety detents.

The gears are indicated by illuminated figures which turn from green to red as each position is selected.



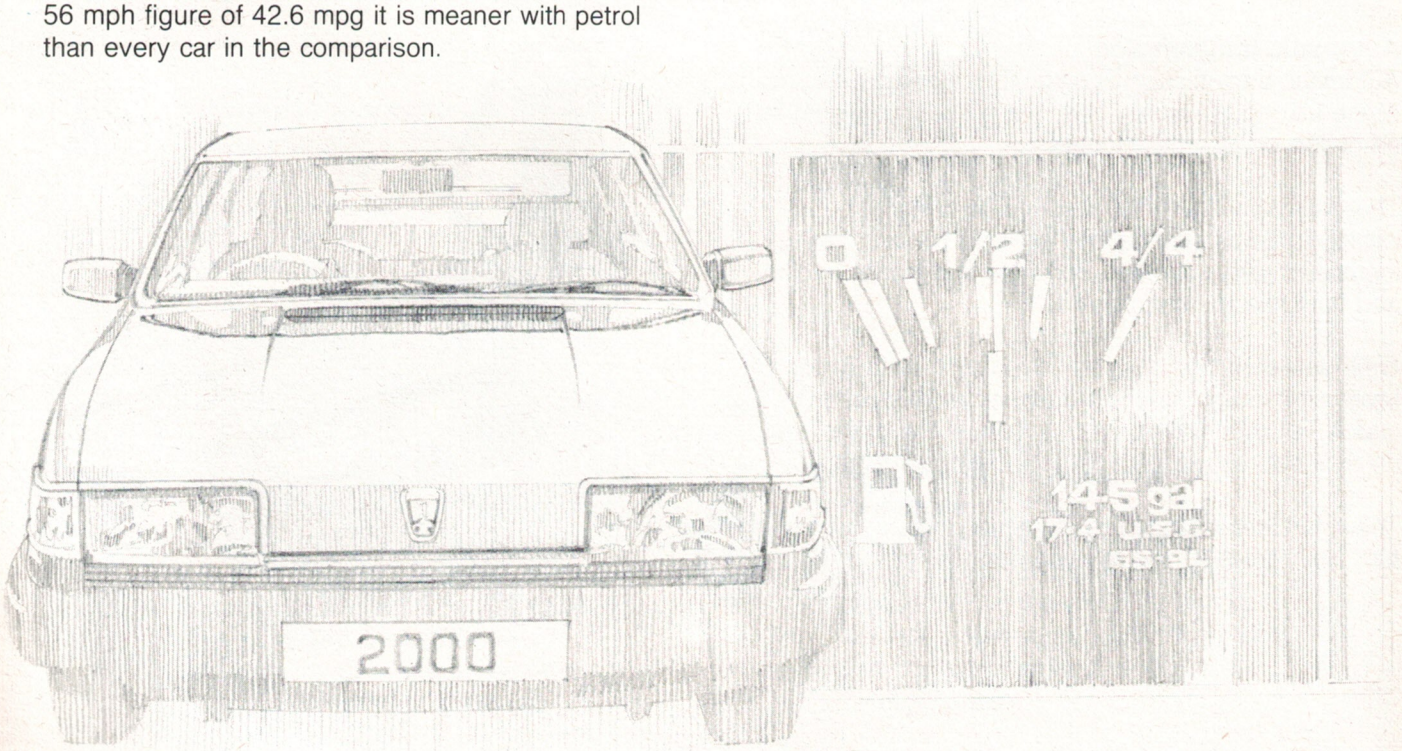
Fuel economy

Fuel economy is a priority that is now uppermost even in the executive saloon sector but it is one which the Rover range meets outstandingly well. The 2300 Rover models use 5.7 mpg less than the Granada 2300 at a steady 56 mph, and nearly 4 mpg less at a steady 75 mph. They even beat the overdrive Volvo 244 on the same counts. The 2600's fuel economy figures are as equally impressive again, topping 40 mpg at a steady 56 mph. The 3500 SE uses over 5 mpg less than the Granada 2.8, at a steady 56 mph, and beats it again at a steady 75 mph. Even the heavier Vanden Plas automatic shows itself as more economical at both steady 56 mph and 75 mph than the Audi or the Mercedes.

	Urban	Steady 56 mph	Steady 75 mph
2000	**23.9**	**42.6**	**32.7**
2300	**20.5**	**40.1**	**30.8**
2600	**19.0**	**40.9**	**31.1**
3500	**16.9**	**38.8**	**28.0**
3500 Auto	**18.5**	**31.9**	**23.6**
Granada 2.3	20.8	34.4	26.9
Volvo 244 GL O/D	21.1	39.8	29.7
Saab 900 GLS	21.8	39.8	30.4
Granada 2.8	18.7	33.2	25.7
Citroen CX 2400 GTI	18.5	35.3	28.0
Vauxhall Royale	17.5	33.2	26.4
Granada 2.8i	17.4	32.8	25.4
Saab 900 Turbo	20.3	41.2	32.5
Audi 200 5T Auto	18.3	28.2	21.9
Mercedes 280 E Auto	19.1	28.7	23.4

Rover 2000 - 42.6 mpg at steady 56 mph

The biggest economy success is without doubt the newly introduced 2000 model. With a superb steady 56 mph figure of 42.6 mpg it is meaner with petrol than every car in the comparison.



How much more economical, at a steady 56 mph, is the Rover 2000 than the Granada 2.3?

8.2 mpg.

Performance

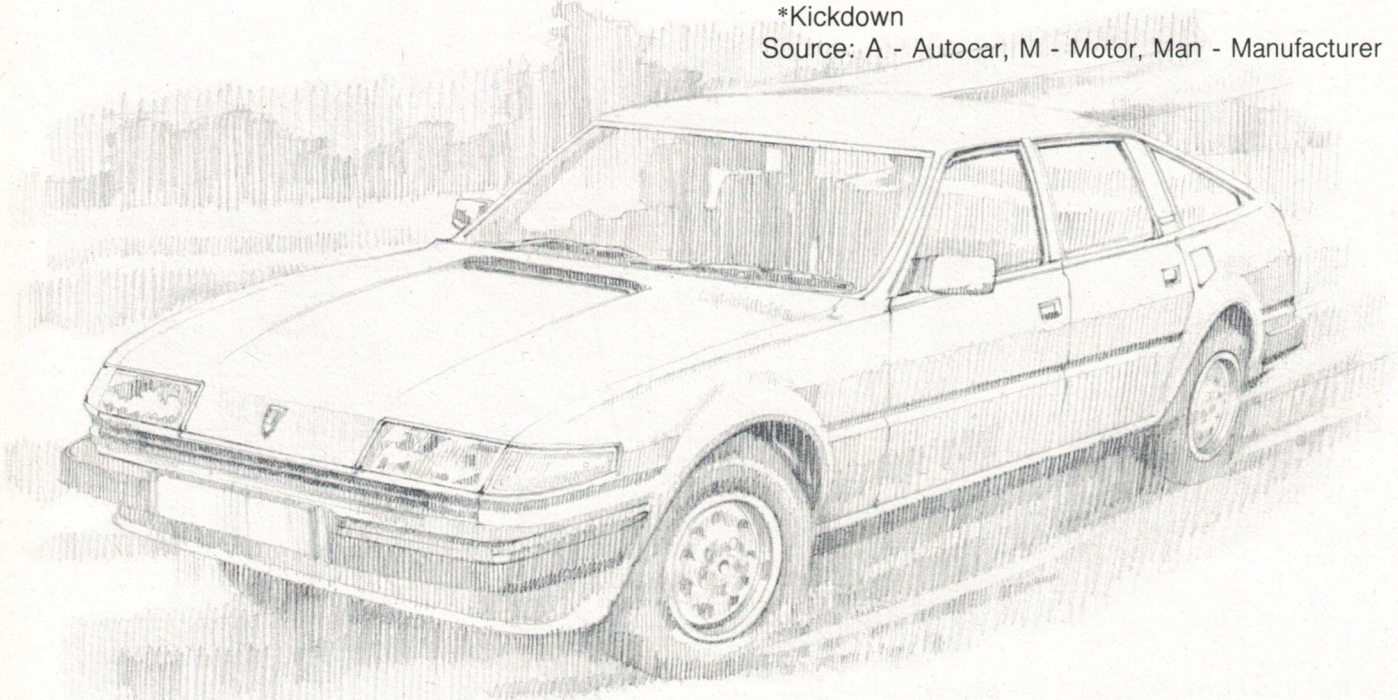
True to its reputation for performance the Rover range takes an effortless lead over every single one of these major competitors, beating them as soundly as it does on fuel economy. Both the 2000 and 2300 models leave the Granada 2.3, Saab 900 and Volvo 244 well behind on every count, scoring particularly well on 0-60 acceleration. The 2600 models are marginally behind the Granada 2.8 and Citroen CX 2400 from 30-50, but are well ahead from 0-60 and have a higher top speed.

Rover 3500 SE: 0-60 in 8.9 secs

The whispering power of the V8 Rover SE carries it from 0-60 in a mere 8.9 seconds. This beats the fuel-injected Granada 2.8i and even the Saab Turbo, and they are left a very long way behind in 4th gear acceleration. Even the automatic Vanden Plas suffers very little weight handicap from its extra equipment, conceding ground only to the Audi.

	0-60 mph (secs)	30-50 mph in 4th gear (secs)	Top Speed (mph)	
2000	**12.5**	**10.1**	**104**	**Man**
2300	**10.8**	**10.0**	**114**	**M**
2600	**9.0**	**8.4**	**118**	**M**
3500	**8.9**	**7.9**	**122**	**M**
3500 Auto	**9.6**	**3.4***	**120**	**M**
Renault 30 TS	9.2	7.8	114	M
Ford Granada 2.3	13.5	11.7	100	M
Saab 900 GLS	13.3	10.4	100	A
Volvo 244	12.6	10.2	98	M
Ford Granada 2.8	9.5	8.2	114	Man
Citroen CX2400 GTi	10.1	7.1	115	M
Ford Granada 2.8i	9.0	9.3	117	M
Saab 900 Turbo	9.6	11.1	118	A
Vauxhall Royale Auto	11.4	3.9*	113	M
Audi 2005T Auto	8.6	3.3*	120	M
Mercedes 280E Auto	10.4	5.1*	117	M

*Kickdown
Source: A - Autocar, M - Motor, Man - Manufacturer

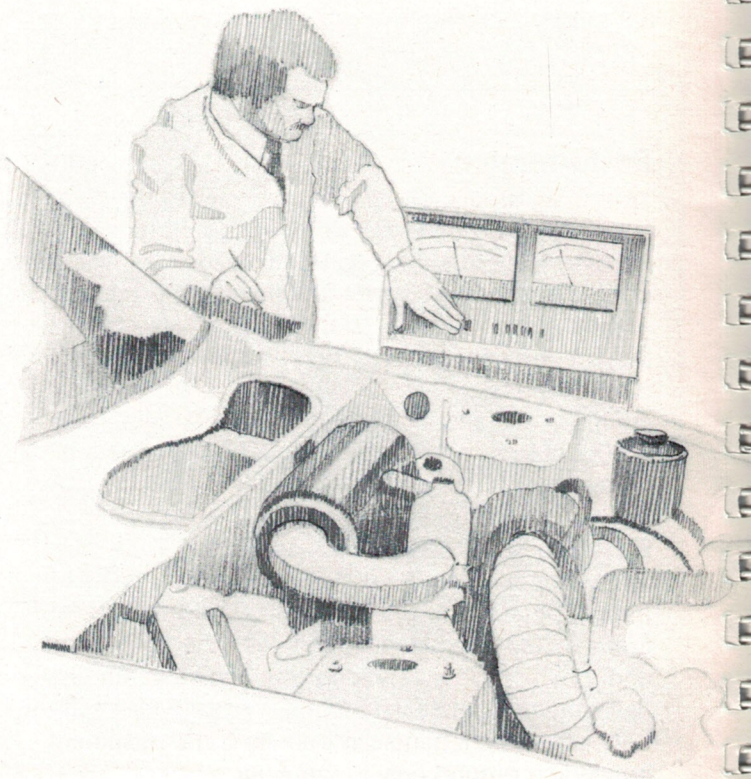


Which competitor, with manual transmission, comes closest to Rover 3500 0-60 mph time of 8.9 secs?

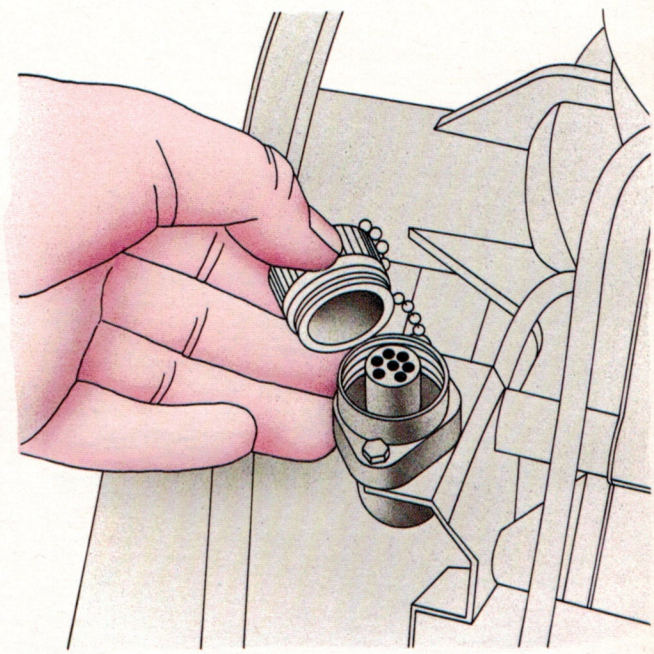
Granada 2.8i - 9.0 secs.

Servicing

Major service - 12,000 miles/12 months
Like the rest of BL Cars model ranges, the Rover has benefited from the continuing service programme aimed at reducing the cost of ownership by cutting service times. Examples of service developments include an extended oil change interval, brake pad wear warning light and revisions to the types of spark plugs. These developments have contributed to Rover needing its major service at 12,000 miles or 12 months.



Diagnostic servicing plug
All Rover engines are equipped with a diagnostic servicing input which brings the two major benefits of allowing the engine to be timed both more quickly and more accurately than with other methods.



Now that you have completed this section, check that you have learned the points that have been covered by completing the following test. You should answer every question correctly before continuing.

End of Section Test

1. What is the steady 56 mph fuel consumption of the Rover 2000?

2. What is the 0-60 mph acceleration time of the Rover 3500 SE?

3. What is the interval between services on Rover?

Answers

1. What is the steady 56 mph fuel consumption of the Rover 2000?	42.6 mpg.
2. What is the 0-60 mph acceleration time of the Rover 3500 SE?	8.9 secs.
3. What is the interval between services on Rover?	12000 miles/12 months.

3

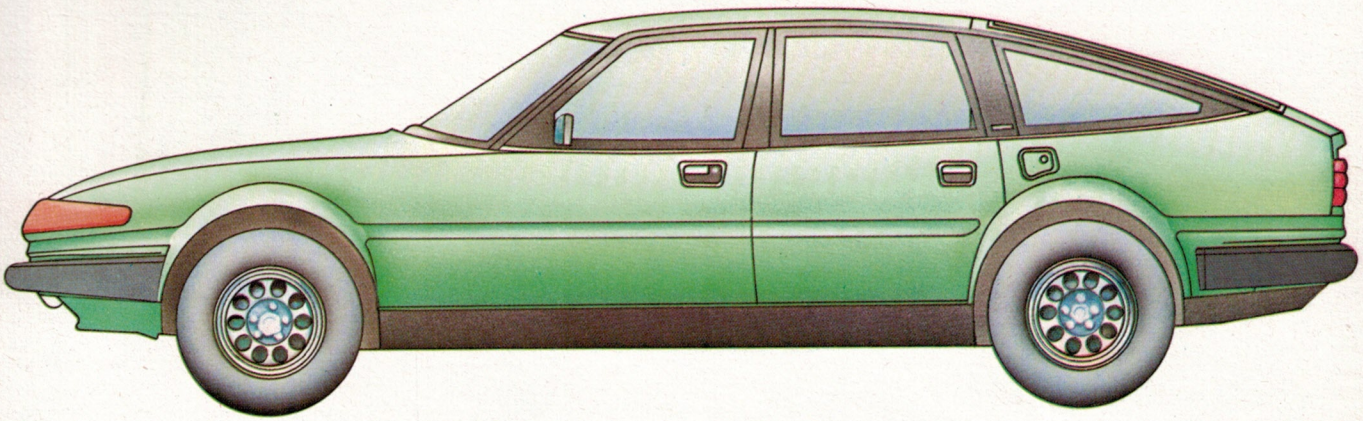
Styling that is as functional as it is exciting has given the Rover one of the lowest drag coefficients in its class. The low drag is a key factor in contributing to the excellent cruising economy of the range, and also to its spirited acceleration and high top speeds. But it also helps to give Rover the superb high speed stability and low levels of wind noise, which are part of its engineering refinement.

Beneath Rover's smooth styling is a carefully designed body structure that provides a reassuring degree of accident protection.

To ensure its long life, special anti-corrosion features, like pressure-ventilated sills, were included in Rover's original design, and further protection is given by extensive anti-corrosion treatment. In common with all aspects of Rover production, this is watched over by quality control procedures designed to conform to the most stringent standards.

Rover's suspension system combines a very high standard of ride with excellent handling qualities, and has now been modified to give an even better ride at low speeds.

The rack and pinion steering, with power assistance standard on all but the Rover 2000 and 2300, is precise and direct and has been widely praised.



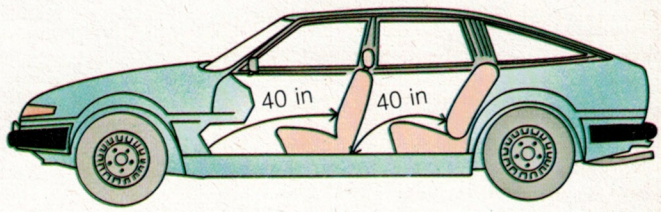
Length 15 ft 5 ins

At 15 ft 5 ins Rover is three inches longer than the Granada and Citroen CX. Well over half of the Rover's length is occupied by the wheelbase, giving a wheelbase to length ratio of 0.60 - a figure equal to that of the Granada, and substantially better than that of the Volvo. The resulting benefit is greater ride comfort. The rear seats can be positioned in front of, rather than over, the rear wheels, reducing the transmission of road shocks, and also reducing wheelarch intrusion into the available seat width.

	Length	Wheelbase	Ratio
Rover	**15 ft 5 in**	**9 ft 3 in**	**0.60**
Ford Granada	15 ft 2 in	9 ft 1 in	0.60
Citroen CX	15 ft 2 in	9 ft 4 in	0.61
Volvo 244	15 ft 9 in	8 ft 8 in	0.55
Renault 30	14 ft 10 in	8 ft 9 in	0.58

Legroom

To optimise passenger comfort, the front seat frames, cushions and rear squabs were reshaped in 1981 and the seat reclining mechanism repositioned on the inner side of the front seats. Rear passenger kneeroom was increased by reshaping the backs of the front seats to provide an extra 0.75 inches of room, and the rear seat was lowered to increase headroom. The legroom in Rover is divided equally between front and rear to provide adequate room even with the front seats fully back; the available space compares well with other large luxury saloons and is greater than that of the Renault 30.



	Front legroom (max)	Rear legroom (min)	Total
Rover	**40 in**	**40 in**	**80 in**
Granada	41 in	40 in	81 in
Citroen CX	41 in	39 in	80 in
Renault 30	39 in	39 in	78 in
Volvo 244	40 in	42 in	82 in

How much shorter is the Rover than the Volvo 244?

8 inches.

Aerodynamic styling

Rover's clean aerodynamic lines, together with its front spoiler, produce a body shape which gives reduced resistance to air flow. Its drag coefficient of 0.40 is only slightly above the best in its class and is better than its most important competitor, the Ford Granada.

Better performance and greater economy

Rover's low wind resistance contributes to both performance and economy. Because the air glides past the Rover with minimum turbulence, top speed and acceleration are improved. Similarly, with the engine having to work less hard, fuel consumption is reduced.

Improved stability

The shape of the spoiler is an important factor contributing to straight-line stability because it improves the airflow at the front of the vehicle, so reducing both drag and front-end lift.

Part of Rover's spoiler acts as an air dam preventing the build-up of turbulence in front of the vehicle, thus reducing drag, whilst the lower part of the spoiler smooths the air flow underneath the car minimising front-end lift.

Another factor contributing to Rover's stability is its centre of side wind pressure which is in line with its centre of gravity. Disturbance by side winds is kept to a minimum because wind pressure is being applied at the most stable part of the car.

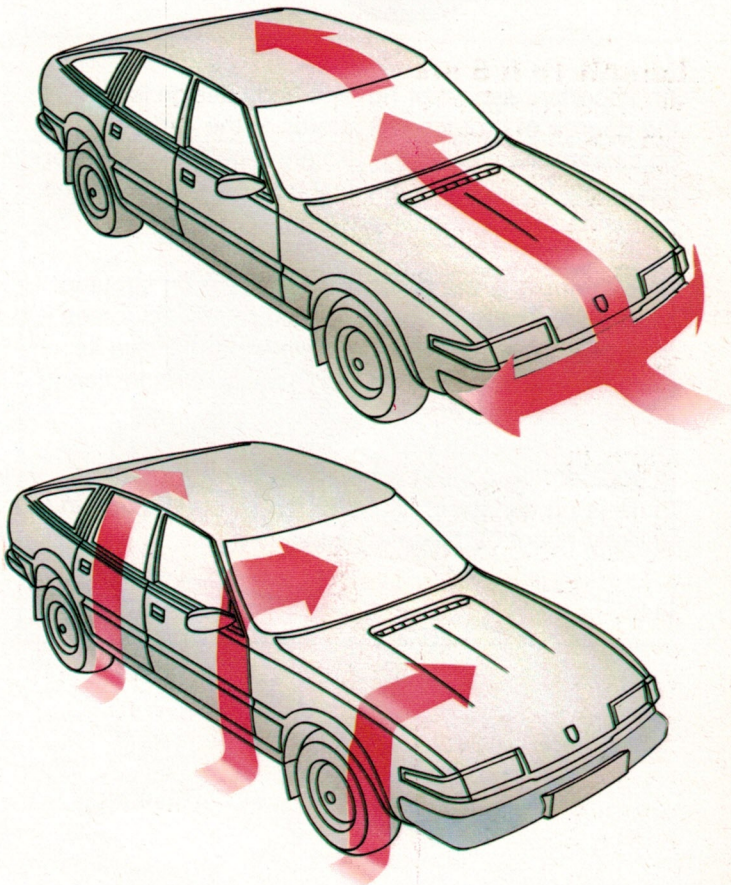
Reduced wind noise

Rover's overall aerodynamic styling is enhanced by careful shaping of details like the wing mirrors, and high manufacturing standards for door and window seals. This ensures that wind noise is reduced to a minimum contributing to Rover's quiet, refined interior.

Drag coefficients

Rover	**0.40**
Ford Granada	0.42
Volvo 244	0.47
Audi 100	0.39
Citroen CX	0.39
BMW 520	0.42

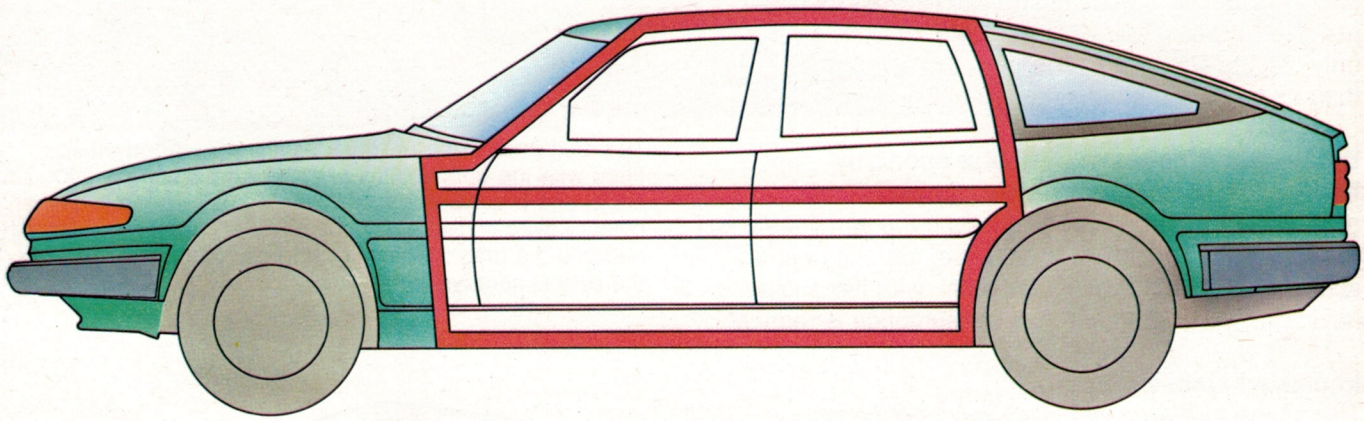
The drag coefficient for Rover is based on a body shape fitted with the front spoiler/air dam currently on the 2000 and 2300, and previously on all Rover models. The new deeper colour keyed spoiler fitted to the 2300 S has not significantly reduced the drag coefficient, although it does contribute to the overall aerodynamic styling.



"Straight line stability is one of the Rover's strong points. Despite the strong and gusty winds, often combined with patches of standing water on the road surface, the car ran very straight and felt extremely relaxed even at 70 mph or more." *(Autocar).*

15 ft 5 ins.

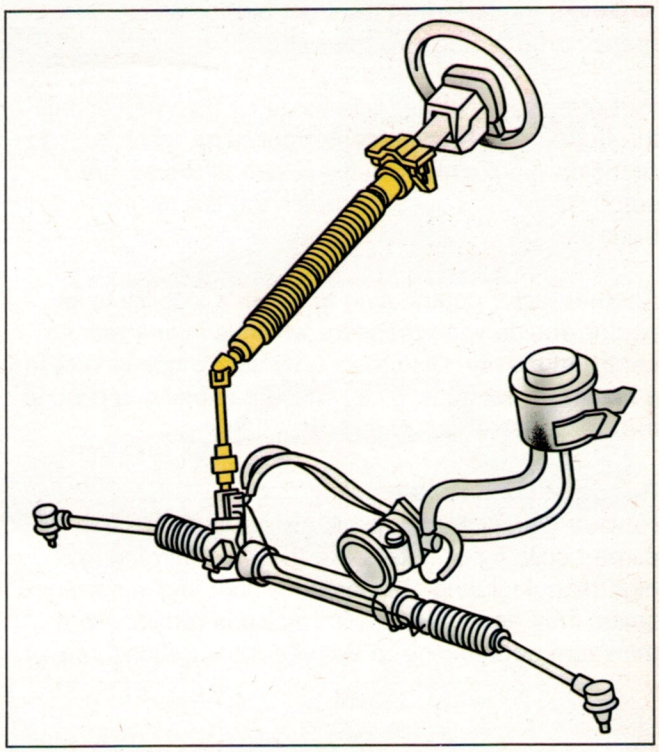
Safety



An important aspect of Rover's body design is the degree of protection it affords to the car's occupants. As well as the "safety cage" effect, Rover has many additional safety features, far exceeding the demands of ECE regulations.

One example is the horizontal compression struts in each door. These channel longitudinal impact forces right past the passenger cell helping to maintain its integrity, and they also provide additional protection in a side-on collision.

In addition the bonnet is hinged at the front so that there is no danger of its being blown open, even in the unlikely event of the safety catch failing.



Collapsible steering column
Two separate devices are incorporated into the Rover's steering column to ensure that, in the event of a collision, injury to the driver by the column is prevented. The steering column collapses by bending at two universal joints and by shortening through the action of a telescopic safety section.

Improved stability and reduced wind noise are two of the four major benefits of Rover's aerodynamic body shape. What are the other two?

Better performance and greater economy.

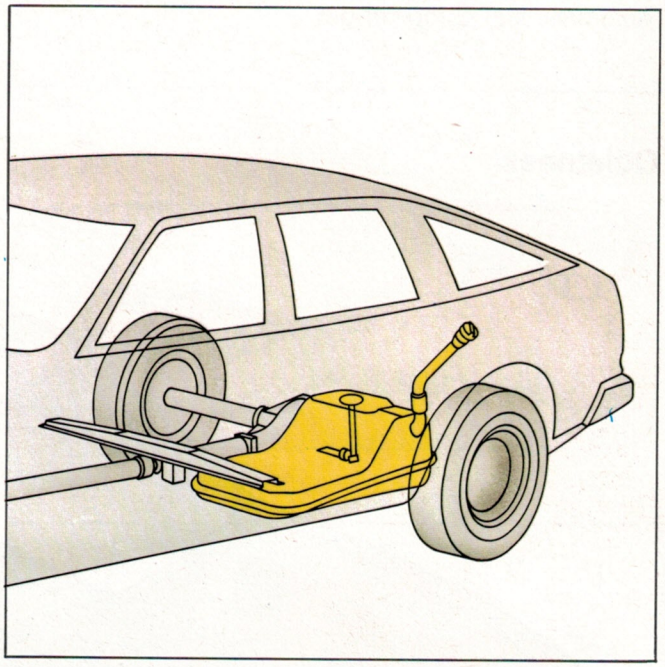
All Rovers have three special safety features that offer additional protection. Two of them reduce the risk of fire in the event of a collision.

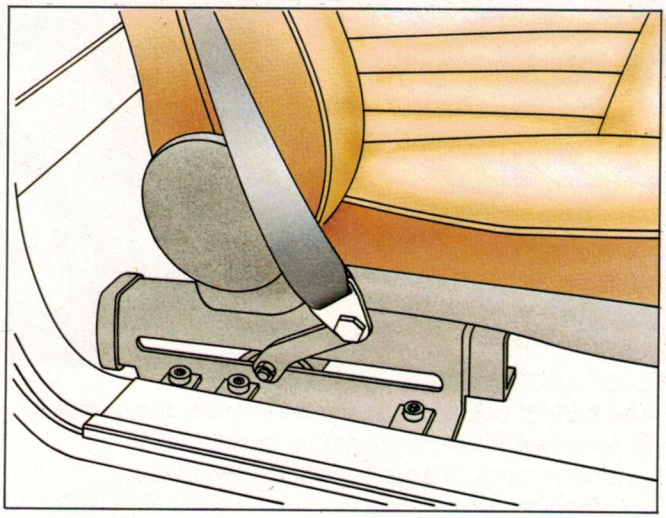
Location of fuel tank
In a Rover, the fuel tank is located in the safest possible position - in front of the rear axle - so it is very well protected from impact damage. The risk of fuel spillage is therefore greatly reduced.

This location has the additional benefit of allowing a deep and regular loadspace, with few intrusions.

Fuel pump cut-out
Even when the fuel tank remains intact in a collision, fuel could still leak from a damaged engine. This dangerous possibility is reduced on Rover by an automatic fuel pump cut-out. When the engine stops running, the pump stops too, so the risk of fuel escaping is minimised.

Front seat belt anchorage
Another valuable feature of Rover's safety-conscious design is the anchorage of the front seat belts. The standard inertia-reel belts are anchored to the seat runner rather than the floor. This ensures that whatever the position of the seat, or the size and shape of the occupant, the belt will be correctly positioned across the pelvis.

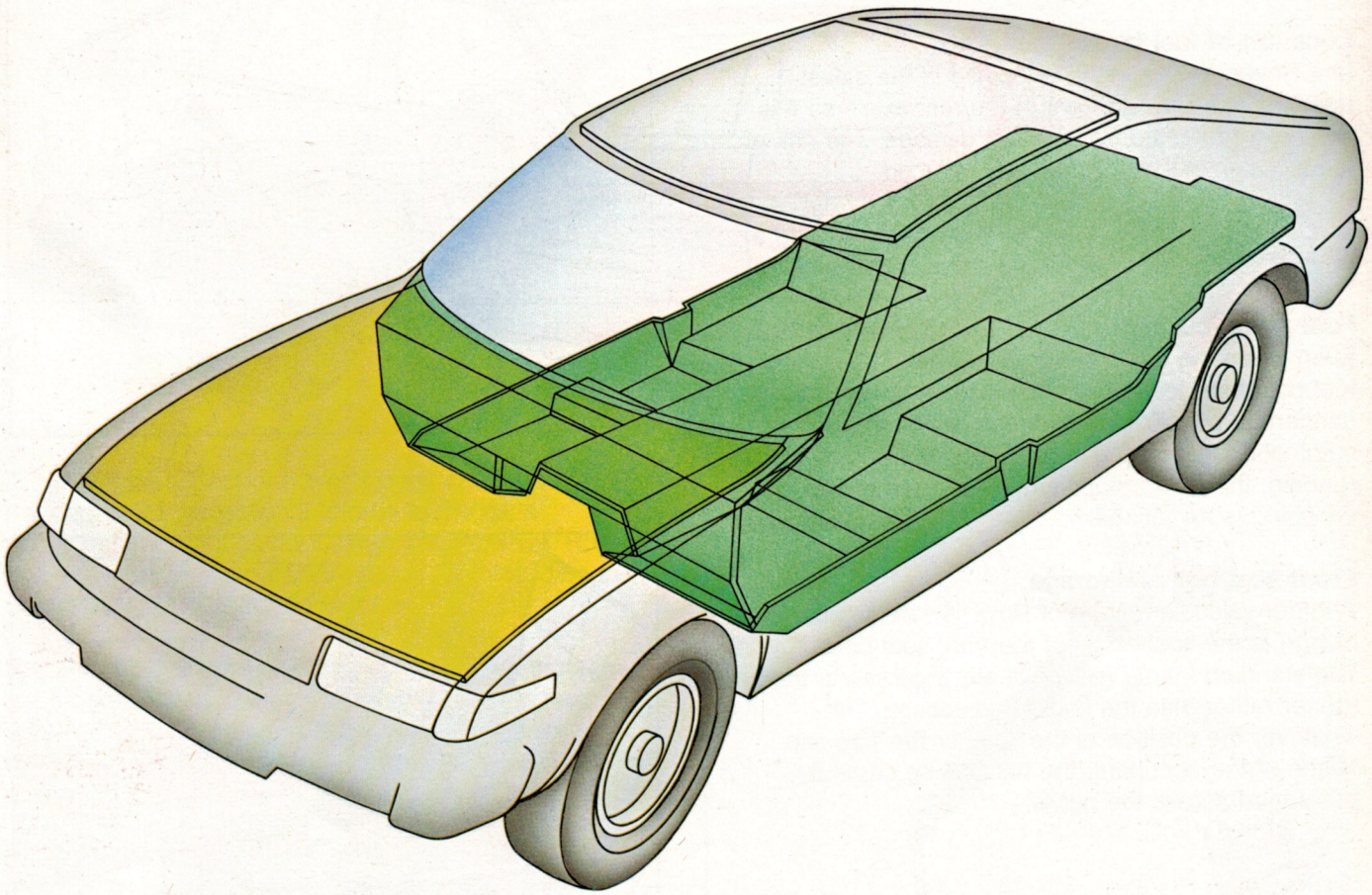




Location of the fuel tank, in front of the rear axle is one of the two safety features that reduce the risk of fire in the event of a collision. What is the other one?

Automatic fuel pump cut-out.

Quietness



The careful design and engineering which has helped to eliminate noise at source, is backed up by an extensive pack of sound insulation materials. This incorporates some advanced techniques of noise reduction, developed originally for Metro.

Bitumastic sheet
Over the entire floor area, bitumastic sheet has been actually fused directly onto the car body panels. The contact of the bitumastic with the metal provides a damping effect, which virtually eliminates panel vibration.

Underbonnet felt
Under the bonnet a thick felt pad absorbs engine noise to make the Rover's whispering engine quieter still.

Rover's quietness was designed on the drawing board, and has been praised highly, for example Autocar said: "It is a long journey car par excellence, offering superbly quiet and untiring cruising at speed. Even at 100 mph the engine creates so little noise that one is unaware of any sound from it."

The special design feature of the Rover's seat belts is that they are anchored to the seat slide. What major benefit does this provide?

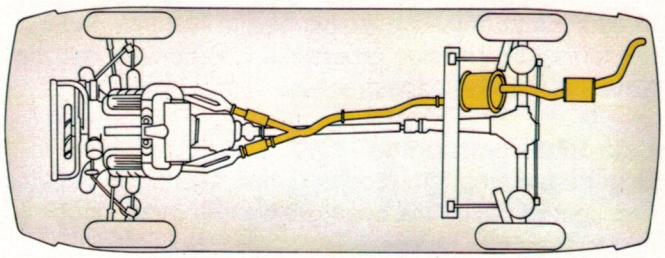
Correct positioning of the seat belts at all times.

Anti-corrosion measures

The Rover was designed from the beginning to reduce corrosion by careful attention to body styling and potential trouble spots. Good design is supported by a production process which incorporates an extremely thorough series of anti-corrosion treatments and stringent quality control.

Aluminised exhaust

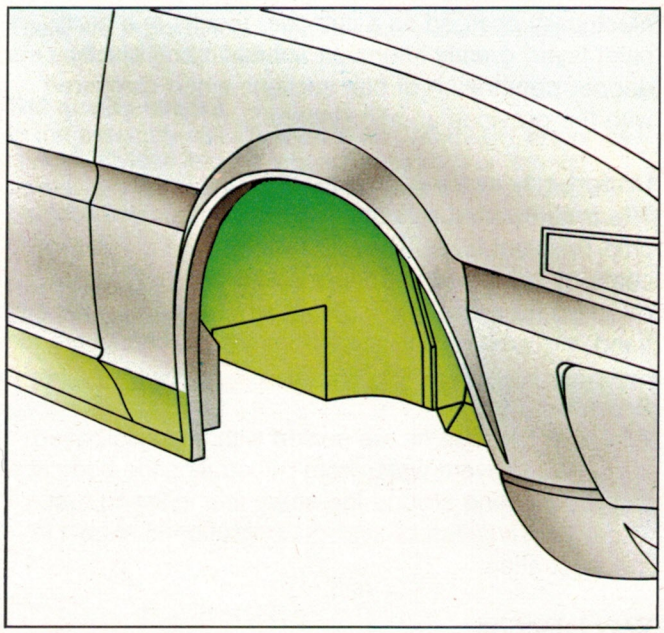
The exhaust system is a well-known potential problem area. On Rovers exhaust life has been greatly extended by aluminising all vulnerable areas.



Aluminised exhaust

Smooth wheelarches

Any crevice or projection in the wheelarch is a potential starting point for rust, as water becomes sealed in by layers of dirt or mud which are difficult to remove. On Rovers, this problem has been avoided by designing smooth wheelarches so that the muddy water splashed up by the wheels runs off again immediately.



Smooth wheelarches

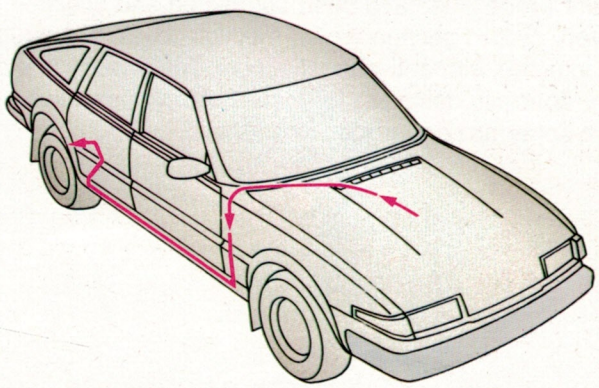
Zinc-coated sills

On Rovers, each sill is made entirely from zinc-coated steel which greatly improves their resistance to rust.

Pressure ventilation

To further reduce the risk of corrosion, the sills are pressure ventilated, to prevent the accumulation of moisture.

Autocar remarked on the value of this feature: "It is particularly pleasing to know, as you sit snug and warm in your Rover, that the nasty damp inside the door sills is being dried out at the same time."



Pressure ventilated sills

All the time the car is moving, warm air is fed from the heater air intake into the sill box-members and is drawn out by the pressure created by the car's movement. The outlet vents are positioned so as to prevent the entry of dirt and water.

Bitumastic sheet fused to the floor area is one of the two special features of Rover's acoustic package. What is the other special feature?

A thick felt pad fitted under the bonnet absorbs engine noise.

In addition to these protective design features, there are four anti-corrosion processes incorporated into the Rover's 24 stage paint process.

Cathodic electroprime
Rover's electroprime process which lays down the vital first coat of paint, has been greatly improved, doubling its resistance to corrosion.

This new process, in which the car body shell is electrically charged as a cathode, results in a purer paint layer, greatly improved adhesion and much deeper penetration of box sections when compared with the previous anodic system.

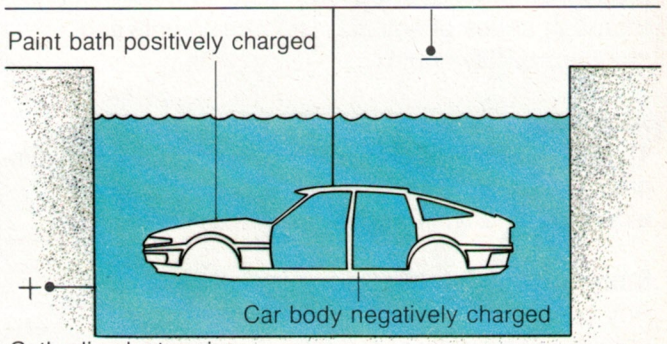
Underbody sealing
The entire underbody of every Rover is sealed with a chip-resistant layer. The wheelarches are given two coats by hand and the entire surface is then carefully checked for areas of thin cover which are resprayed by hand.

Seam sealing
All vulnerable seams are sealed with a plastic-based sealant to prevent water from penetrating the body shell or accumulating around the seam and initiating rust. The extensiveness of sealant application is shown in the illustration.

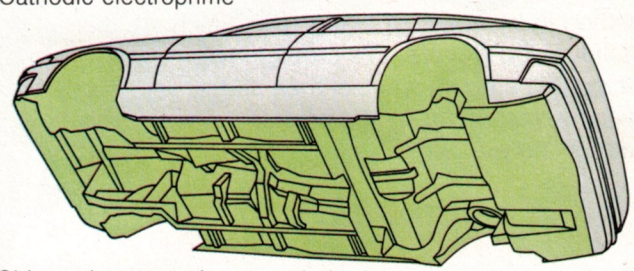
Wax injection
This final anti-corrosion treatment occurs after all the paint processes have been completed and checked. Every closed section where moisture could accumulate is injected with anti-corrosive wax. The injection holes are specially designed to ensure correct positioning of the spray nozzle for total interior wax cover.

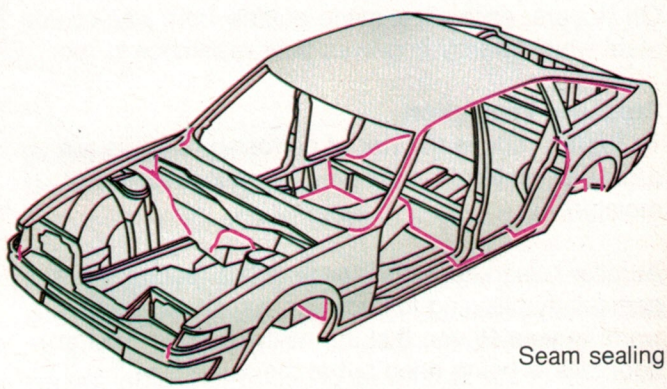
In addition to the two aspects of door sill design, and the aluminised exhaust, what fourth design feature reduces the risk of corrosion?

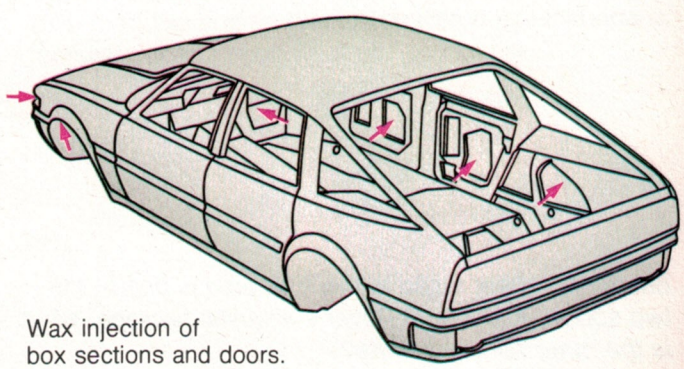
The new process enables Rovers to meet one of the toughest anti-corrosion codes in the world. issued by the Canadian government, which states that the car must be:
1. Free from cosmetic corrosion for 18 months.
2. Free from perforation caused by corrosion for 3 years.
3. Free from structural damage caused by corrosion for 6 years.



Cathodic electroprime


Chip-resistant coating to underbody


Seam sealing


Wax injection of box sections and doors.

Smooth wheelarches.

Quality control

Backing up the extensive anti-corrosion treatments to ensure quality as well as durability, is a rigid system of tests, checks and inspections.

Rigorous quality assurance, conforming to NATO standards, controls all aspects of Rover production from the quality of the initial materials through design of machinery for construction and finishing, to the instruments used to monitor and test the completed vehicle.

Step by step as a Rover is built, so the checking, testing and inspecting go on, monitoring all aspects of the car's construction, performance and appearance so that every Rover leaving the factory is a car of quality.

There are many different quality control procedures, but two are particularly significant.

700 quality checks
In the assembly hall alone there are 700 quality assurance checks, divided into ten inspection stations or 'buy-off' points. Any faults are recorded on the vehicle's individual production report before it is diverted off the main production line for rectification and retesting.

Hot-running of engine
Every Rover engine is individually balanced and tuned, then hot-run for an hour before final adjustments are made.

Before you continue with this section, check your knowledge by completing the following test.

Interim Test

1. What is Rover's overall length?

2. What are the four major benefits of Rover's aerodynamic styling?

3. The automatic fuel pump cut-out is one feature which reduces the risk of fire in the event of a collision. What is the other feature?

4. What is the major design feature of Rover's front seat belts?

5. What are the two special features of Rover's acoustic package and how does each reduce noise levels?

6. In addition to the smooth wheelarches and aluminised exhaust, what two aspects of sill design reduce the risk of corrosion?

Answers

1. What is Rover's overall length?

15 ft 5 ins.

2. What are the four major benefits of Rover's aerodynamic styling?

a) Better performance.
b) Greater fuel economy.
c) Improved stability.
d) Reduced wind noise.

3. The automatic fuel pump cut-out is one feature which reduces the risk of fire in the event of a collision. What is the other feature?

The location of the fuel tank in front of the rear axle.

4. What is the major design feature of Rover's front seat belts?

The front seat belts are anchored to the seat runners.

5. What are the two special features of Rover's acoustic package and how does each reduce noise levels?

a) Bitumastic sheet fused to the floor area reduces panel vibration.
b) A thick felt pad fitted under the bonnet absorbs engine noise.

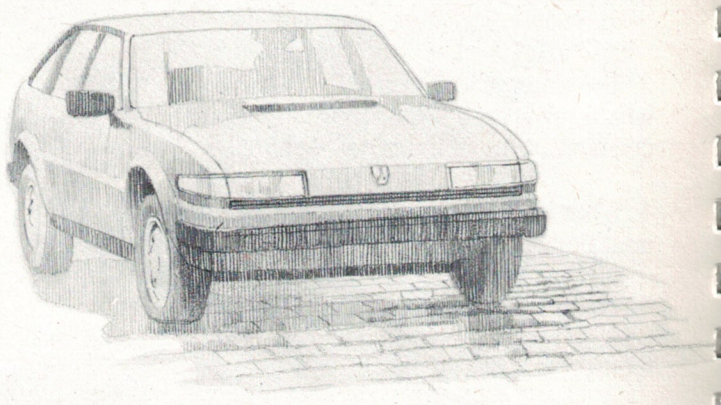
6. In addition to the smooth wheelarches and aluminised exhaust, what two aspects of sill design reduce the risk of corrosion?

a) Use of zinc-coated steel.
b) Pressure ventilation.

Suspension

In keeping with the design philosophy of straightforward but efficient engineering, which characterises the Rover, the suspension system is essentially simple in concept.

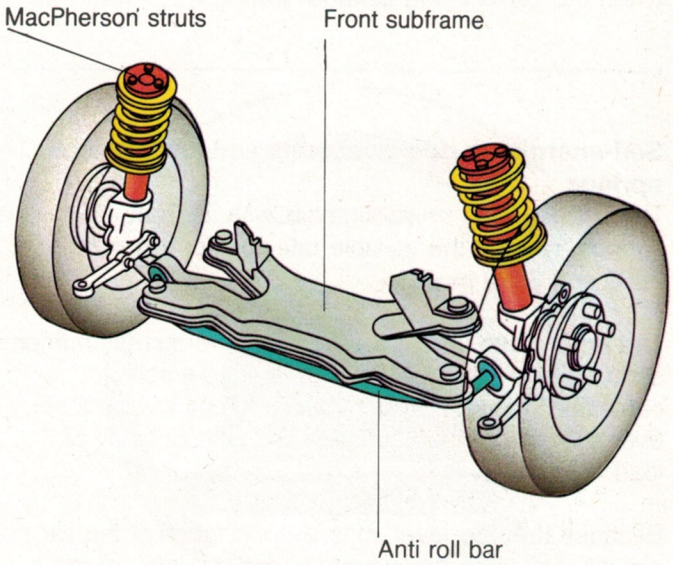
The quality and comfort of the ride ensure Rover a place in the true luxury class for comfort, while the handling puts many supposed sports saloons to shame. As Motor puts it: "The Rover can be hurried along a winding road in enterprising fashion, feeling more like a sports car than a family saloon, which makes it great fun to drive."



Front suspension

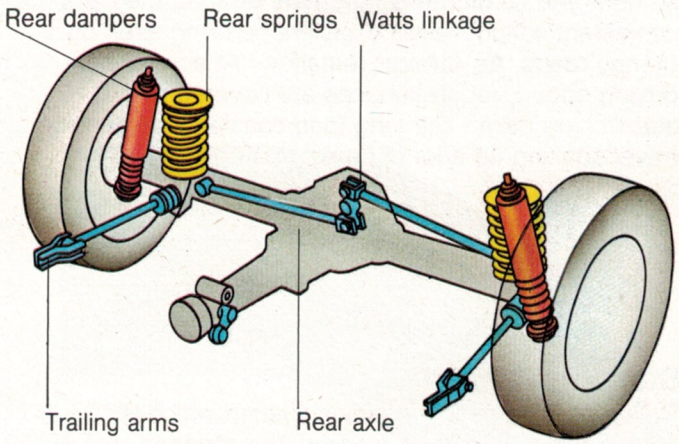
All Rovers employ the same type of front suspension - a MacPherson strut assembly with offset coil springs and an anti-roll bar. This system has the advantages of mechanical strength and simplicity while being just as effective at coping with road irregularities as more complex systems.

It has the added benefit of ensuring good, predictable handling by almost eliminating variations in wheel camber.



Rear suspension

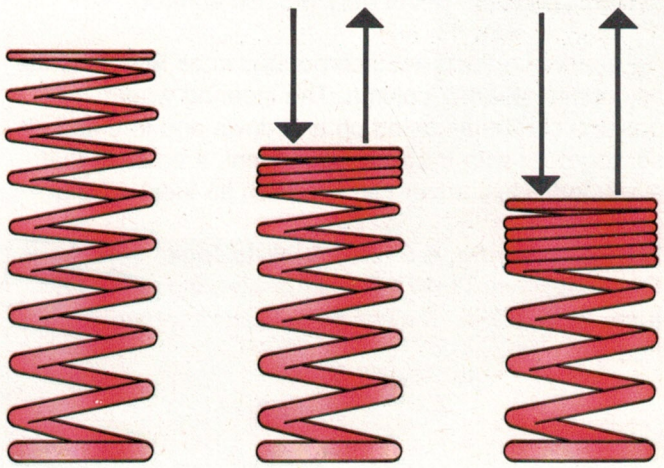
All Rovers are fitted with a rear suspension system particularly designed to cope with variation in loads - a great benefit in such a capacious and adaptable vehicle. The 2600 S, 3500 SE and Vanden Plas have self-energising ride level units with low rate coil springs, while the 2000, 2300 and 2300 S have variable rate coil springs.



Variable-rate coil springs - 2000, 2300 and 2300 S

Rover's variable-rate coil springs can cope with a wide variety of loads because they combine the characteristics of high- and low-rate springs. The varying thickness of the coil provides progressively strengthened cushioning to ensure maximum ride comfort under all conditions of load. The springs are complemented by telescopic dampers.

Autocar commends the system highly: "The 2300's ride is solid rather than over soft ... a reassuring lack of roll and little pitch further conveys a taut feel to the car. At the same time, the long travel suspension is well able to soak up large undulations keeping the car commendably level".



Variable-rate coil springs

Apart from when carrying heavy loads when would the ability of the rear suspension units to cope with variations in load be particularly useful?

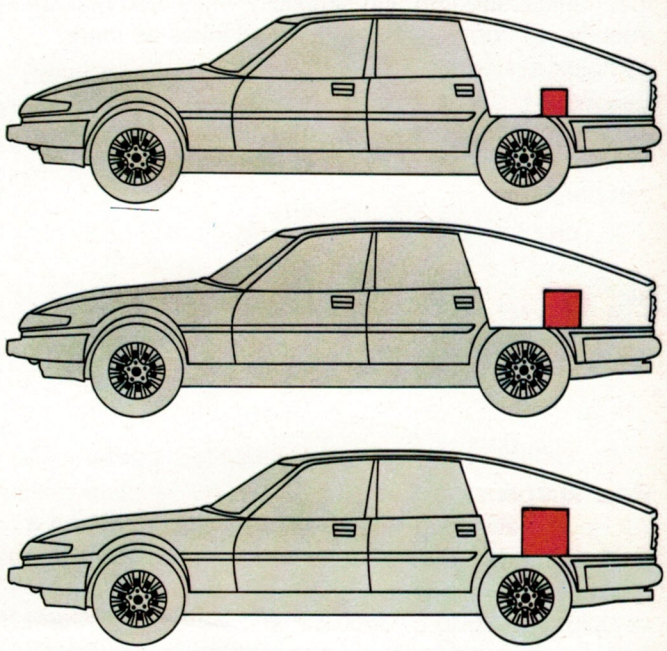
When the car is being used for towing.

Self-energising ride-level units and low rate coil springs

The self-levelling units, together with low rate springs, replace the variable rate coil springs in the 2600 and 3500 models.

The units make use of the energy generated by bumps and unevenness in the road to operate a self-contained hydraulic system which keeps the car level over all kinds of road surfaces and with all kinds of load.

Because the ride-level units support much of the car's weight, soft, long-travel springs can be used, giving a smooth and comfortable ride. Furthermore, the car's consistent attitude gives excellent handling even on bumpy roads. As Autocar remarks: "At any normal driving speed, rough surfaces are covered with astonishing calm - the long (and constant) suspension travel soaking up a lot of punishment".



The Citroen CX has a comparable system but it has the disadvantage of requiring an engine-driven pump which means higher costs and a drain on the power output of the engine.

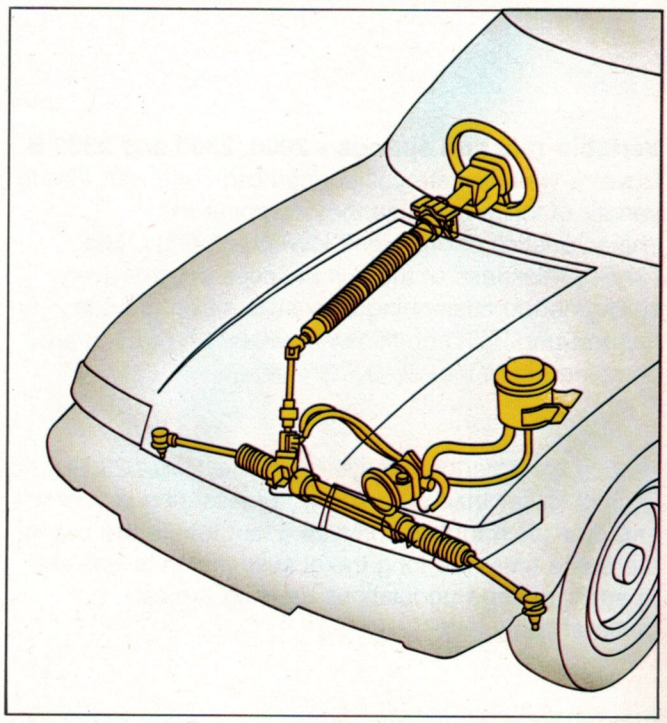
Steering

Rovers have a rack and pinion system which is power-assisted in most models. The steering rack is mounted on the same crossmember as the front suspension mountings, so this simple and direct system gives the driver very precise control.

An unusual refinement incorporated in all Rovers is the adjustable steering column. The steering wheel position can be adjusted up and down and fore and aft so, together with the seat adjustment, it ensures that every individual driver can establish an ideal driving position.

Manual steering, 4.5 turns lock-to-lock

Only the Rover 2000 has manual steering. With 4.5 turns lock-to-lock, it gives close control without being heavy.



Which models are fitted with the self-energising ride-level units?

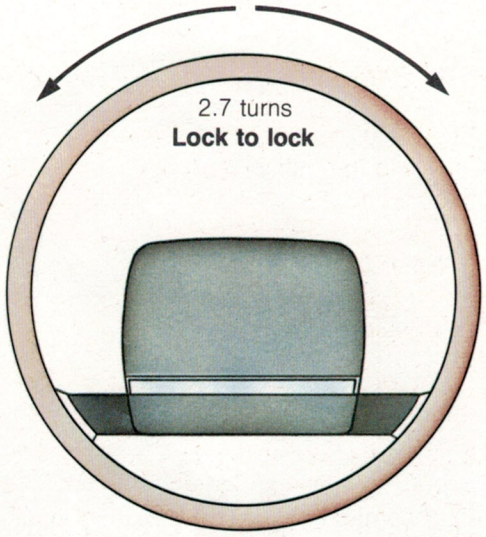
2600 S, 3500 SE and Vanden Plas.

Power steering, 2.7 turns lock-to-lock
Rover's power assistance reduces the number of turns lock-to-lock from 4.5 to 2.7 promoting relaxed effortless driving.

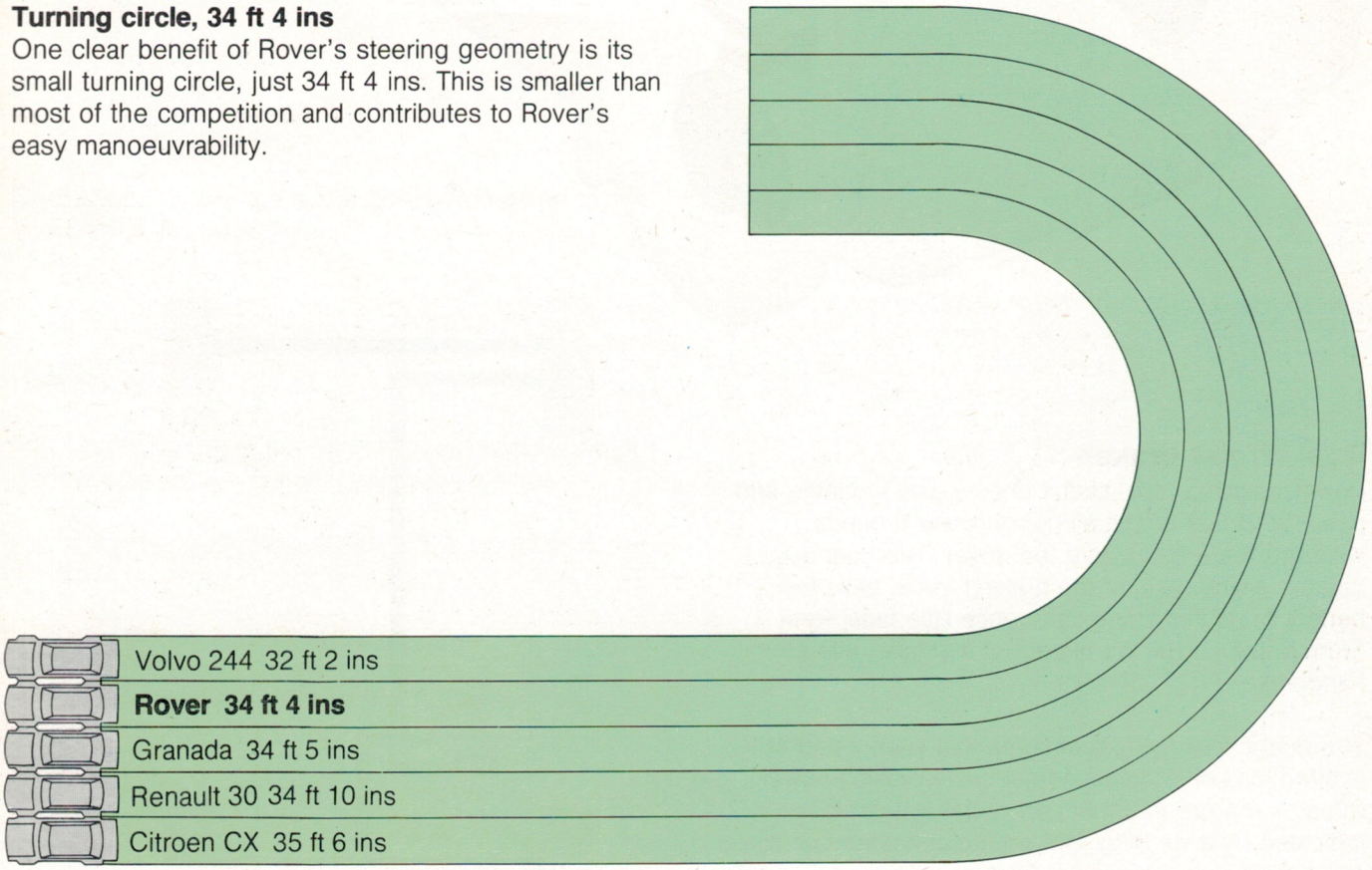
However, the system retains excellent road feel so that the driver can constantly monitor the car's reactions and position it on the road with confidence.

"Rover's rack and pinion system though light, is very direct in its action and delightfully precise" (Motor).

"The steering is very good indeed, quick without being too quick, and full of feel without being heavy or suffering from kickback' (Autocar).

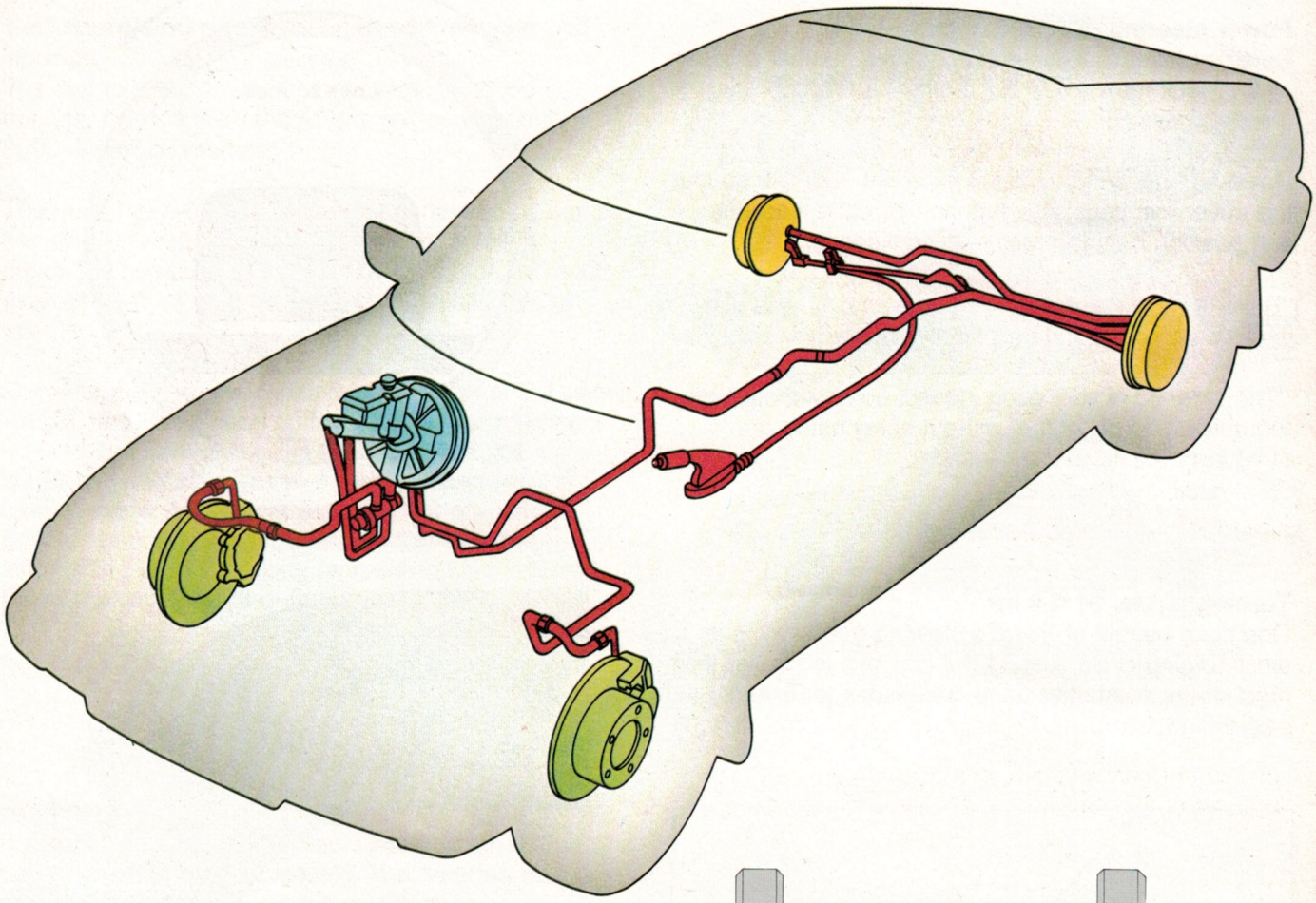


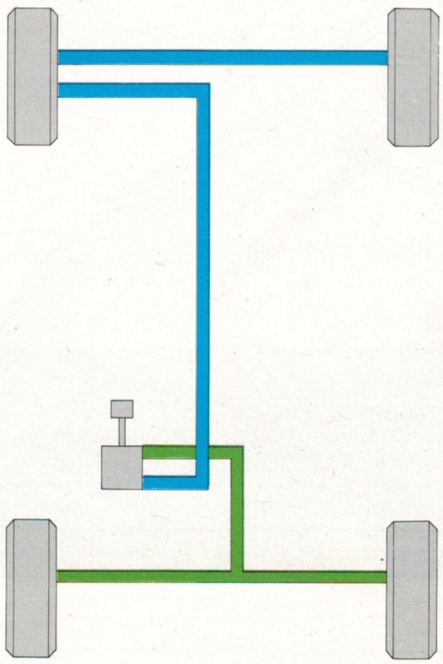
Turning circle, 34 ft 4 ins
One clear benefit of Rover's steering geometry is its small turning circle, just 34 ft 4 ins. This is smaller than most of the competition and contributes to Rover's easy manoeuvrability.



Apart from the reduction in physical effort what is the major benefit of power steering?

It reduces the number of turns lock-to-lock.





Dual circuit brakes

Power-assisted, dual circuit brakes give the large and powerful Rover all the stopping power it needs - without undue effort from the driver. The front disc brakes, giving 80% of the braking force, have the benefit of rapid cooling and hence little fade. Rear drum brakes allow the fitment of a simple, effective handbrake.

The dual circuit system ensures that even if part of the system fails or is damaged adequate braking power remains. Failure in either part of the system is indicated by a warning light on the instrument binnacle.

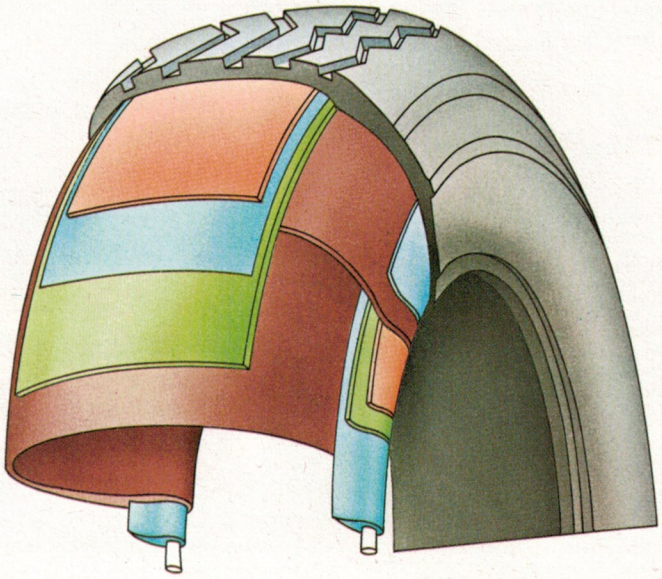
What is Rover's turning circle?

34 ft 4 ins.

Wheels and tyres

All Rovers benefit from steel-braced tyres with their improved handling, smoother travel and longer life. Low profile tyres are also fitted across the range, bringing the benefits of better high speed performance, safer cornering, greater load carrying capacity and longer life. The 2000, 2300 and 2600 models have 175HR tyres and the 3500 SE and Vanden Plas have 195/70HR mounted on alloy wheels.

The alloy wheels fitted to 3500 models bring additional benefits. Because of aluminium's light weight, these wheels can have a wider section so distributing stress over a larger area and allowing the fitment of wider tyres. Also, because it is such a good heat conductor, the aluminium rapidly dissipates the frictional heat developed by the tyres and brakes.



Check your knowledge so far before you go on to the final part of this section.

Interim test

1. In which models is the rear suspension made up of variable rate coil springs and telescopic dampers?

2. What type of rear suspension is fitted in other Rover models?

3. What is Rover's turning circle?

4. With power steering, Rover has 2.7 turns lock-to-lock. How many does it have with manual steering?

5. What type of dual-system brakes are used on all Rovers?

Answers

1. In which models is the rear suspension made up of variable rate coil springs and telescopic dampers?	2000, 2300 and 2300 S.
2. What type of rear suspension is fitted in other Rover models?	Self-levelling units and low rate coil springs.
3. What is Rover's turning circle?	34 ft 4 ins.
4. With power steering, Rover has 2.7 turns lock-to-lock. How many does it have with manual steering?	4.5
5. What type of dual system brakes are used on all Rovers?	Front and rear split.

2000 and 2300 features

Features that complement the Rover's aerodynamic profile include the bright drip rail and waist trim, the black door frames and the styled wheels. For added convenience the bright finish passenger door mirror is adjustable from inside by a joystick control.

2300 S over 2300

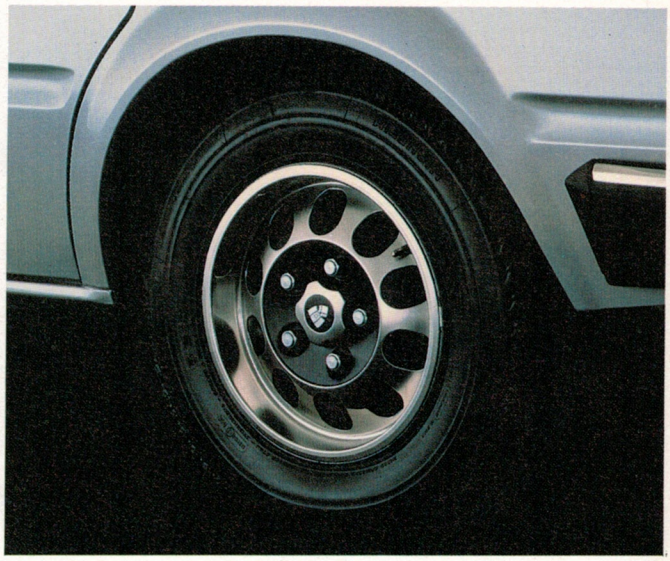
Two major features, one of equipment the other of trim, distinguish the 2300 S.

Sunroof

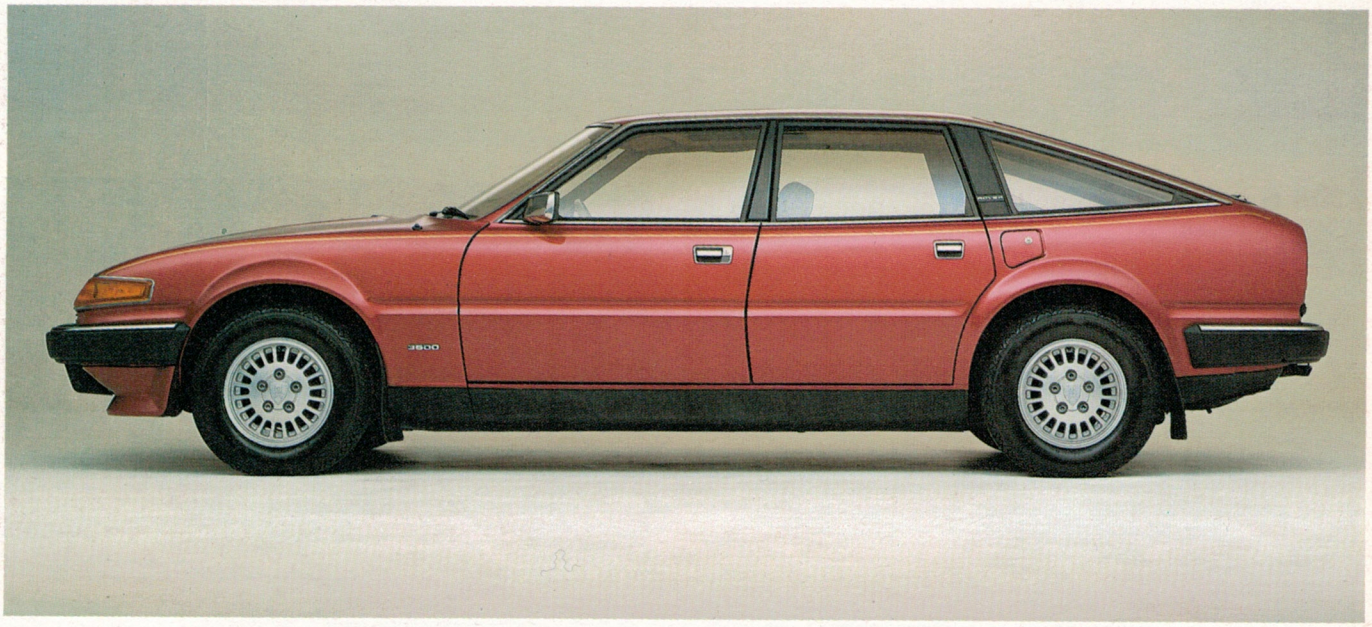
The steel panel sunroof is manually operated by a simple slide catch. It can be slid right back out of sight or be locked into any position by releasing the catch. A wind deflector automatically flicks into position when the roof is opened.

From the photographs, what is the other major feature that differentiates the 2300 S from the 2300 model?

Stainless steel wheel trims.



Stainless steel wheel trims
These full diameter stainless steel trims, which incorporate rim embellishment, feature an attractive oval design in a contrasting black finish.



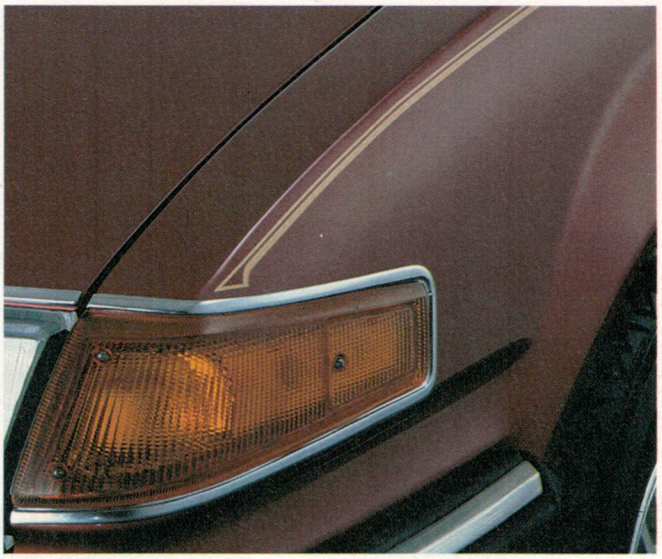
3500 SE over 2600 S

The 3500 SE has four major features that differentiate it from the 2600 S. They improve its appearance, looks and durability.

Electrically-operated door mirrors
Requiring only the minimum of time to establish perfect adjustment, electric operation makes the door mirrors much more useful as their position can be readily varied to suit motorway driving and manoeuvring into a small parking space. The mirrors are also electrically demisted for chilly morning starts.

From the photographs what are the other three major exterior features that differentiate the 3500 SE from the 2600 S?

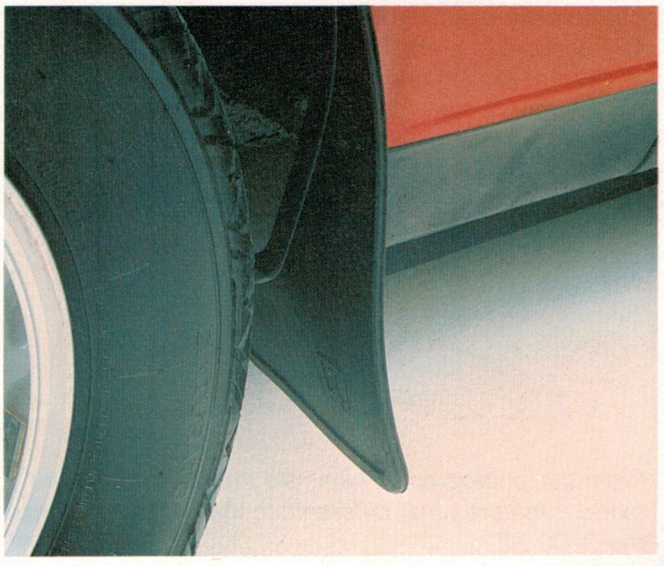
a) Coachline.
b) Alloy wheels.
c) Mudflaps front and rear.



Coachline
The distinction of the double coachline on the 3500 SE discreetly indicates improved specification.

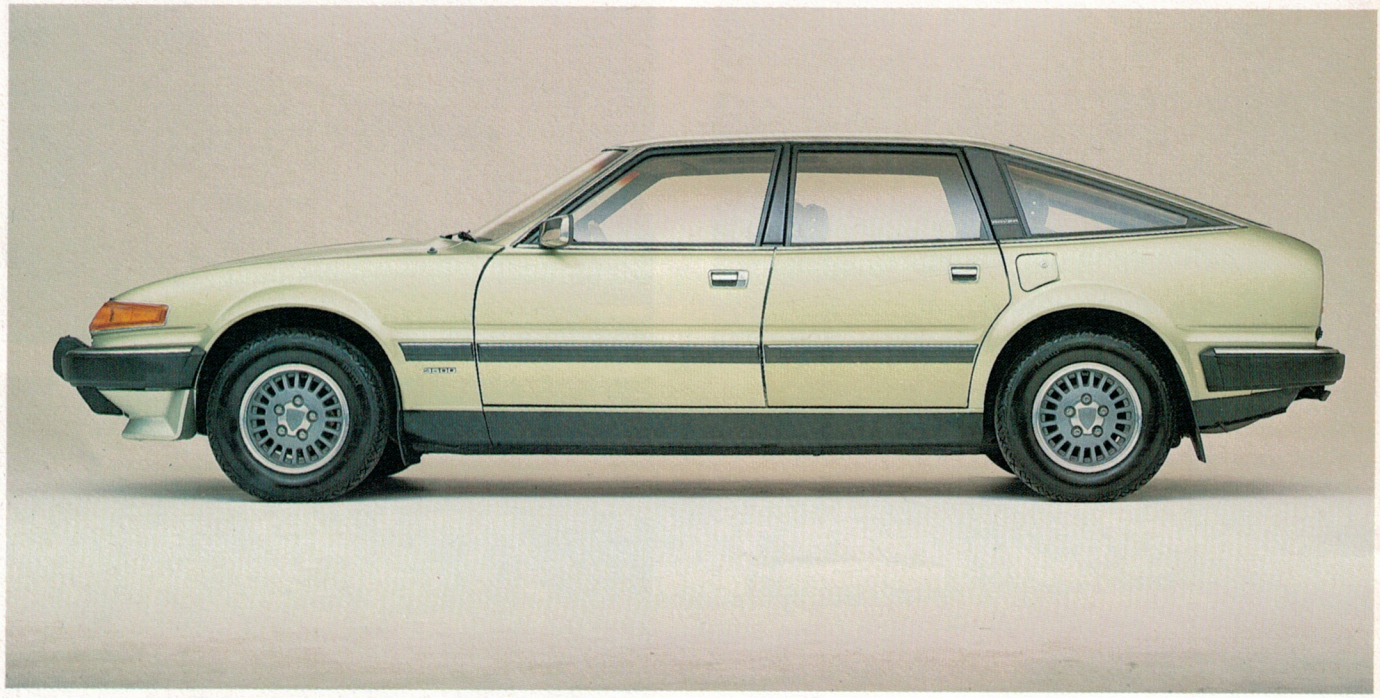
Cast alloy wheels
These attractive wheels not only endow the 3500 SE with sporting good looks, but give it very definite roadholding benefits due to their low unsprung weight.

Mudflaps front and rear
The front and rear mudflaps protect both the car body and other road users from mud and spray.



a) Besides the three features mentioned on this page what is the other major feature that differentiates the 3500 SE from the 2600 S model?
b) In addition to the stainless steel wheel trims, what is the other major feature that differentiates the 2300 S models from the 2300?

a) Electrically-operated door mirrors.
b) Sunroof.



Vanden Plas over 3500 SE

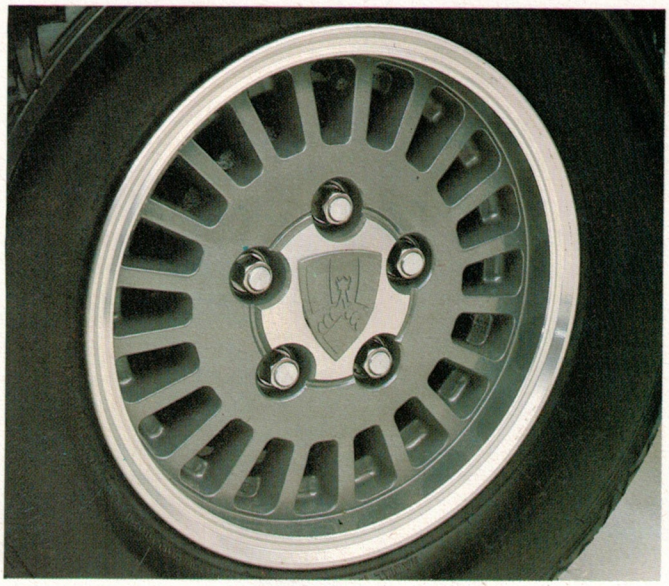
As befitting the top model of the range, the Vanden Plas has three major features that distinguish it over the 3500 SE's already high specification.

Electrically-operated sunroof

The sunroof is electrically-controlled, so that it can be opened or closed quickly and effortlessly even when the car is moving.

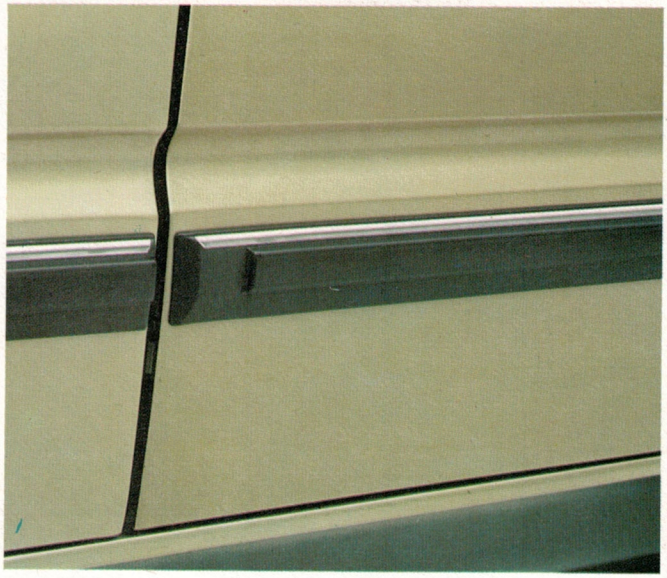
From the photographs, what are the other two major exterior features that differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

a) Machined rim alloy wheels.
b) Body side rubbing strip.



Machined rim alloy wheels
The Vanden Plas Rover is also distinguished by its machined wheel rims, which give a bright finish to the painted alloy wheels. The wheel shown here differs from the production models in that the colours for the grey centre shield and silver surround are transposed.

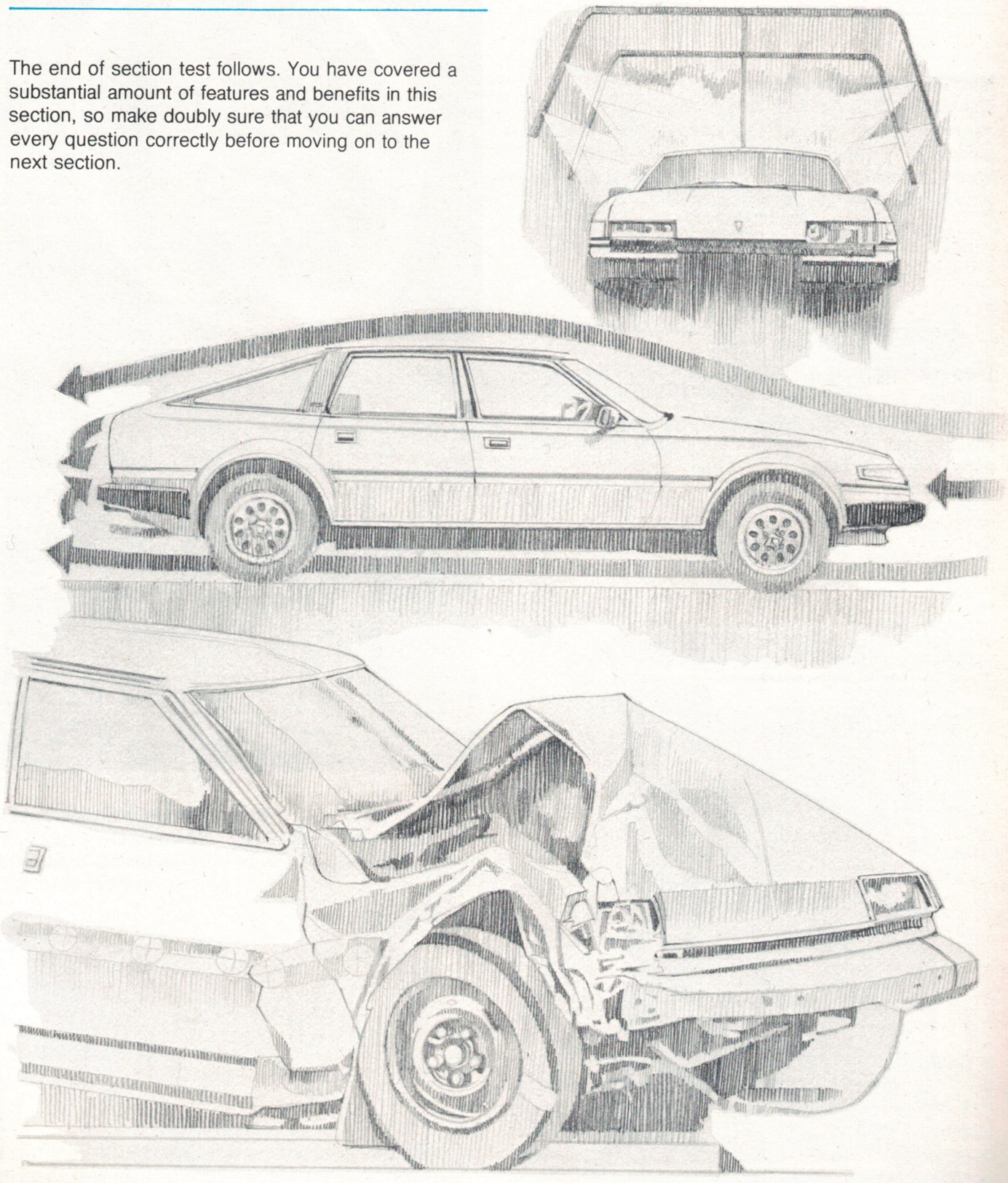
Side rubbing strip
The side rubbing strip, apart from its contribution to the body style, is essentially a practical addition protecting valuable paintwork from minor bumps and scratches, especially in car parks.



a) Bright wheel trim and side rubbing strip are two of the three major features that differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE. What is the other major feature?
b) In addition to electrically-operated door mirrors and coachline, what are the other two major features that differentiate the 3500 SE from the S models?

a) Electrically-operated sunroof.
b) Alloy wheels and mudflaps, front and back.

The end of section test follows. You have covered a substantial amount of features and benefits in this section, so make doubly sure that you can answer every question correctly before moving on to the next section.



End of Section Test

1. How long is Rover?

2. What are the four major benefits of Rover's aerodynamic body style?

3. What two Rover features reduce the risk of fire in the event of a collision?

4a) What is the special design feature of Rover's front seat belts?
b) What benefit does it provide?

5. What are the two special features of Rover's acoustic package?

6. What two design features protect the sills from corrosion?

7. What two additional design features help to minimise corrosion?

8. What type of rear suspension is fitted to:
a) Rover 2000 and 2300 models?
b) Rover 2600 S, 3500 SE and Vanden Plas?

9. How many turns of the steering wheel does Rover have lock-to-lock with
a) Manual steering?
b) Power-assisted steering?

10. What is Rover's turning circle, kerb to kerb?

11. What type of dual-system brakes are fitted to all Rovers?

12. What two exterior features differentiate the S models from the 2300?

13. What four major features differentiate the 2300 S from the 2600 S?

14. What three major features differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

Answers

1. How long is Rover?

15 ft 5 ins.

2. What are the four major benefits of Rover's aerodynamic body style?

a) Better performance.
b) Greater economy.
c) Improved stability.
d) Reduced wind noise.

3. What two Rover features reduce the risk of fire in the event of a collision?

a) Location of the fuel tank in front of the rear axle.
b) Automatic fuel pump cut-out.

4a) What is the special design feature of Rover's front seat belts?
b) What benefit does it provide?

a) The belts are anchored to the seat slides.

b) Correct positioning of the seat belt at all times.

5. What are the two special features of Rover's acoustic package?

a) Bitumastic sheet fused to the floor.
b) Felt pad fitted under the bonnet.

6. What two design features protect the sills from corrosion?

a) Use of zinc-coated steel.
b) Pressure ventilation.

7. What two additional design features help to minimise corrosion?

a) Smooth wheelarches.
b) Aluminised exhaust.

8. What type of rear suspension is fitted to:
a) Rover 2000 and 2300 models?
b) Rover 2600 S, 3500 SE and Vanden Plas.

a) Variable rate coil springs and telescopic dampers.
b) Self-levelling units and low rate coil springs.

9. How many turns of the steering wheel does Rover have lock-to-lock with
a) Manual steering?
b) Power-assisted steering?

a) 4.5.
b) 2.7.

10. What is Rover's turning circle, kerb to kerb?

34 feet 4 inches.

11. What type of dual-system brakes are fitted to all Rovers?

Front and rear split.

12. What two exterior features differentiate the 2300 S models from the 2300?

a) Manual sunroof.
b) Stainless steel wheel finishers.

13. What four major features differentiate the 3500 SE from the 2600 S?

a) Electrically-operated door mirrors.
b) Coachline.
c) Alloy wheels.
d) Mudflaps front and rear.

14. What three major features differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

a) Electrically-operated sunroof.
b) Machined rim alloy wheels.
c) Side rubbing strip.

4

The clever boot/loadspace design of Rover, with its various configurations, give it unrivalled versatility in its class. The change from conventional boot to loadcarrying work horse is done with a simple flick of a catch.

The large opening tailgate now features a wash/wipe system for the easy clearance of standing water and early morning condensation. Rearward vision is also aided by the deep and wide rear screen.

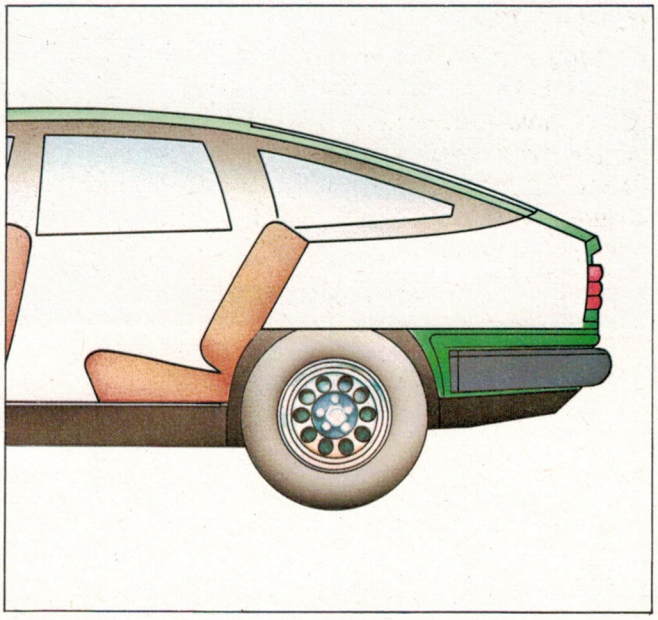
In this short section we also cover trim differentials, fuel tank capacity and Rover's ability as a tow car.

Rover 2000

The major change to the rear of the 1982 Rover models is the deep tailgate glass which provides vital extra rearward visibility. In addition to the heated rear window, all Rovers now have a rear screen wash/wipe. Reversing lights are fitted and, for safety in poor weather conditions, twin foglamps are included in the rear light clusters.

Usable bootspace 12.3 cu.ft.
Rover's fifth door opens effortlessly on gas-filled struts to reveal the wide, deep bootspace of 12.3 cu.ft - described by Autocar simply as "colossal".

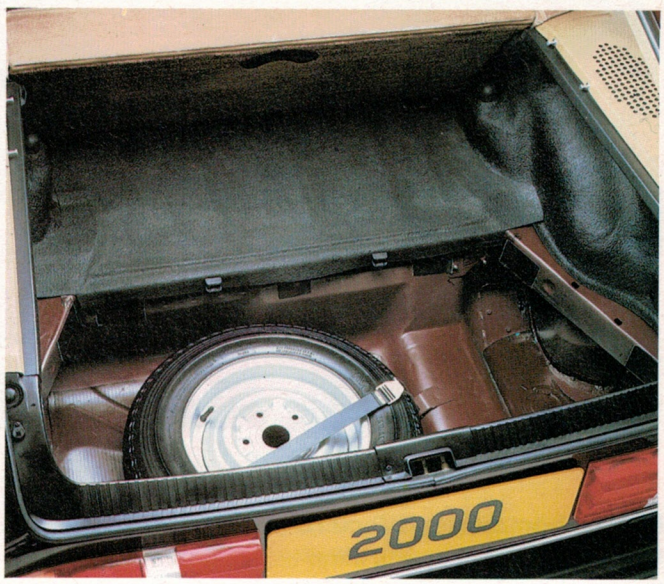
The boot has its own automatic light and may be separately locked from the rest of the car if required. The contents are protected by a rigid parcel shelf, which is easily removed when the tailgate is open, but cannot be moved from inside the vehicle - a useful security feature.



Bootspace versatility

1. Rover's bootspace can be increased in two ways without reducing passenger accommodation. Firstly, the lightweight parcel shelf is easily removed to allow stowage of tall articles.

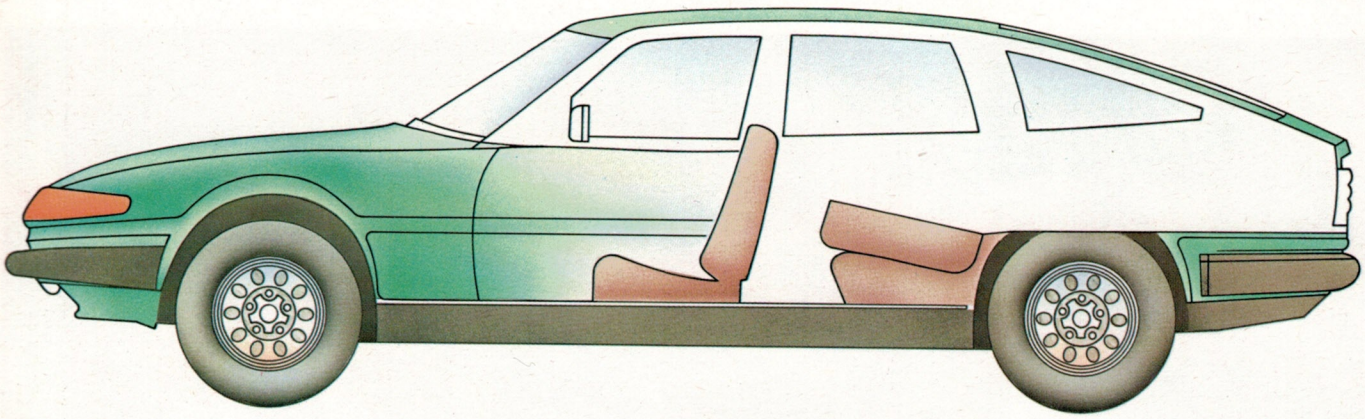
2. Secondly, the floorboards can be removed to expose a further 2.1 cu.ft of stowage space around the spare wheel.



3. Alternatively the wheel may be stored vertically so that more of the well is available for luggage.

What is Rover's usable bootspace capacity?

12.3 cu.ft.



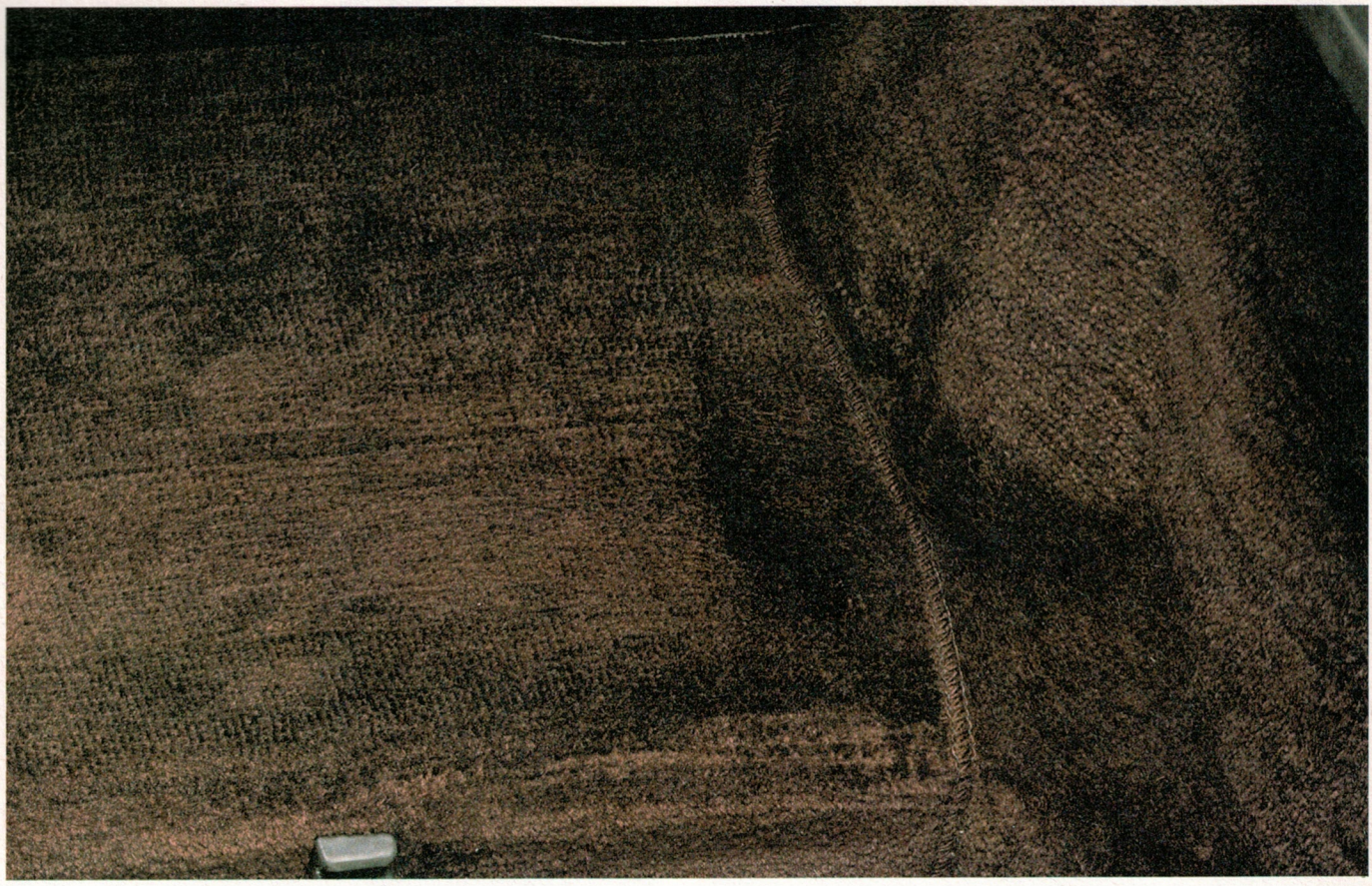
Loadspace 44 cu.ft.
For those occasions when real load-carrying space is needed, Rover has an enormous bonus to offer over almost all other cars in its class. Simply by folding the rear seat forward 44 cu.ft of loadspace (to glass level) is available instantly - ideal for transporting college trunks, a prized piece of furniture or a really large amount of holiday or sports gear. The parcel shelf is easily stowed behind the front seats, where it protects the fabric from the load, or it can be removed altogether.

Autocar remarked, "The versatile loading arrangements are a great plus-point over other cars in this class and the amount of luggage space is nothing if not impressive".

The only competitive vehicle to offer folding rear seat is the Renault 30. This has only 40 cu.ft usable loadspace and a much more awkward and obstructive seat folding mechanism.

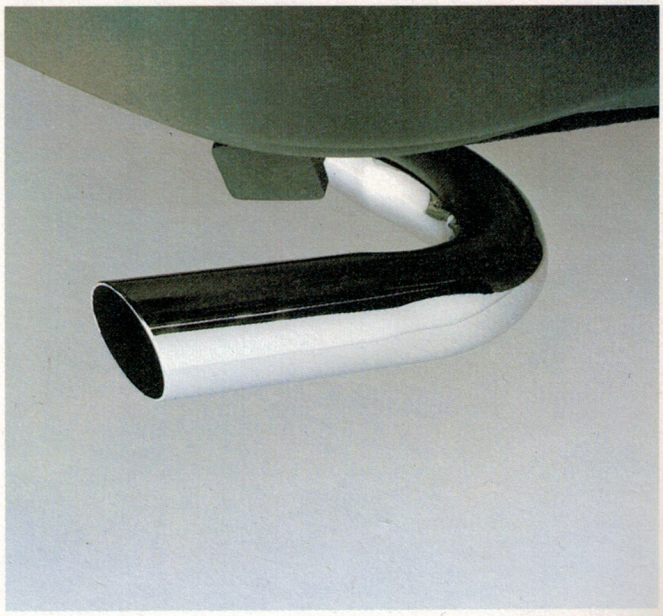
The Rover's usable bootspace is 12.3 cu.ft. What additional stowage space is available around the spare wheel with the floorboards removed?

2.1 cu.ft.



Loadspace carpet - 2300 S
The loadspace floor is carpeted which provides additional sound insulation and protection to loadspace and load, as well as simply looking good.

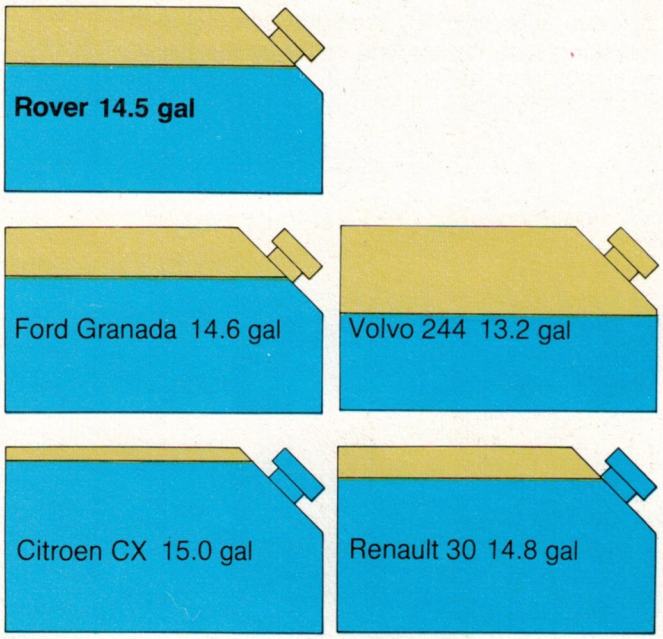
Bright tail pipe finisher - Vanden Plas
As befits the top model of an executive range, the Vanden Plas sports a bright tail pipe finisher, giving it that extra touch of distinction.



What is Rover's loadspace capacity with the rear seat folded down?

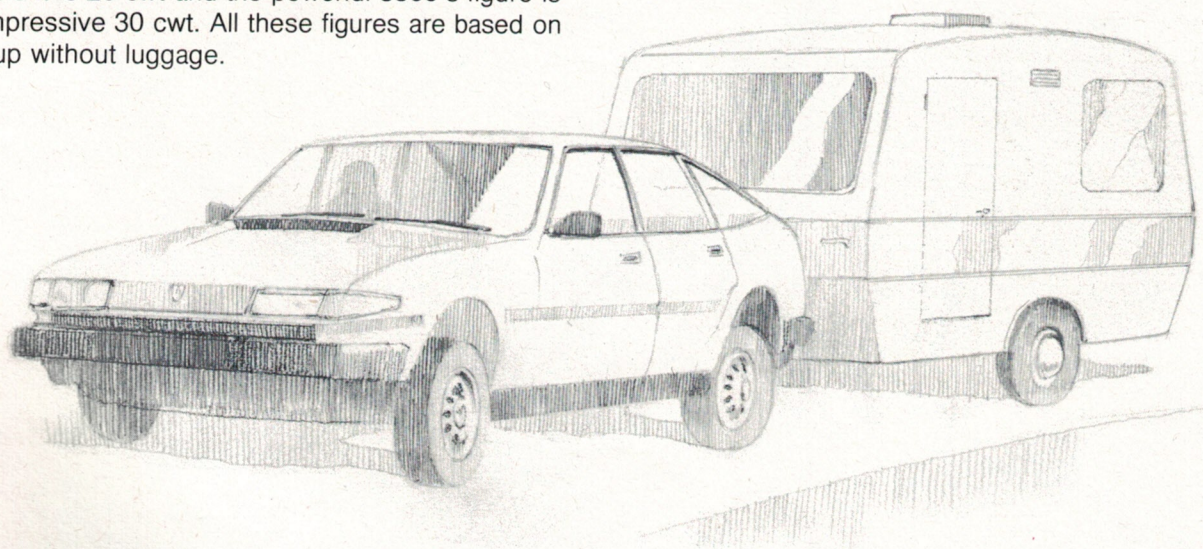
44 cu.ft.

Fuel tank capacity
Rover's large fuel tank holds 14.5 gallons and gives a generous touring range of about 440 miles for the 2300, 400 for the 3500 and an exceptional 482 for the 2000. (Touring figure based on the average of urban and steady 56 mph). A low fuel warning light reminds the driver when to fill up and a lockable fuel filler flap is fitted to protect the expensive tank of petrol.



Towing weights
With its long wheelbase, short rear overhang and powerful engines, the Rover is a classic towing car, and carried off the Best Tow Car award the first year that Caravan magazine ran the competition. A great many Rover buyers put its towing ability as one of their reasons for choosing the car, so it is obviously essential to know the recommnded towing weights.

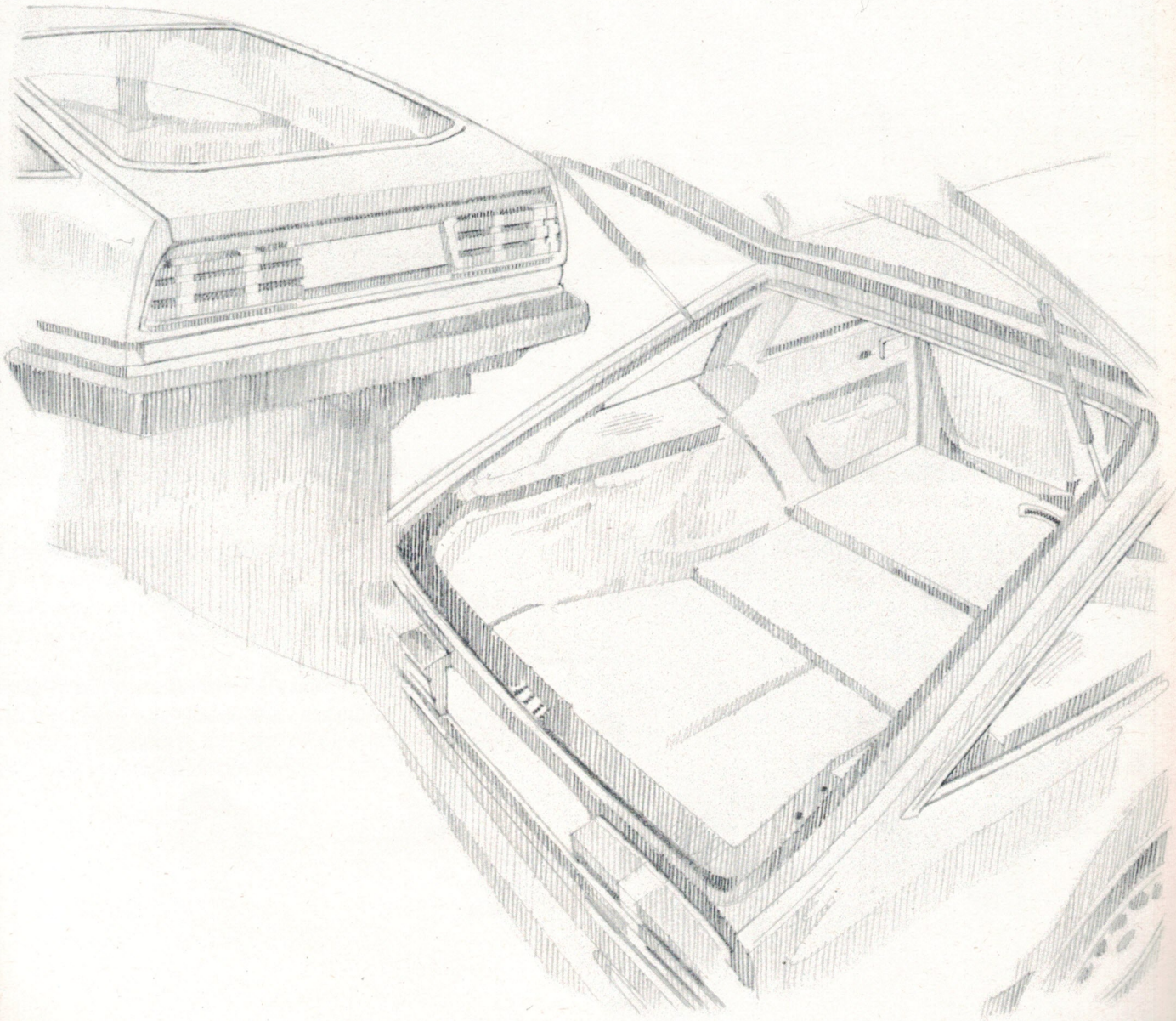
For the 2000 model this is 25 cwt, for the 2300/2600 models it is 26 cwt and the powerful 3500's figure is an impressive 30 cwt. All these figures are based on two up without luggage.



The major feature that differentiates the 2300 S from the 2300 is a carpeted loadspace. What is the major feature that differentiates the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

Bright tail pipe finisher.

Check your knowledge of this section by ensuring that you can answer every question corectly in the following test, before you continue the book.



End of Section Test

1. What is Rover's usable boot capacity with the parcel shelf and floor boards in position?

2. What is Rover's loadspace (to glass level) with the rear seat folded down?

3. What is Rover's fuel tank capacity?

4. What feature of loadspace differentiates the Rover 2300 S from the Rover 2300?

5. What exterior feature differentiates the Rover Vanden Plas from the Rover 3500 SE?

6. What is the recommended maximum towing capacity for each Rover model?

Answers

1. What is Rover's usable boot capacity with the parcel shelf and floor boards in position?	12.3 cu.ft.
2. What is Rover's loadspace (to glass level) with the rear seat folded down?	44 cu.ft.
3. What is Rover's fuel tank capacity?	14.5 gallons.
4. What feature of the loadspace differentiates the Rover 2300 S from the Rover 2300?	Carpeted loadspace.
5. What exterior feature differentiates the Rover Vanden Plas from the Rover 3500 SE?	Bright tail pipe finisher.
6. What is the recommended maximum towing capacity for each Rover model?	a) 2000 - 25 cwt. b) 2300/2600 - 26 cwt. c) 3500/Vanden Plas - 30 cwt.

5

The accommodating rear compartment of all Rover models is extremely well-equipped, contributing to both passenger comfort and safety. The V8 models have additional features to provide rear seat passengers with even higher levels of equipment.

2000 features

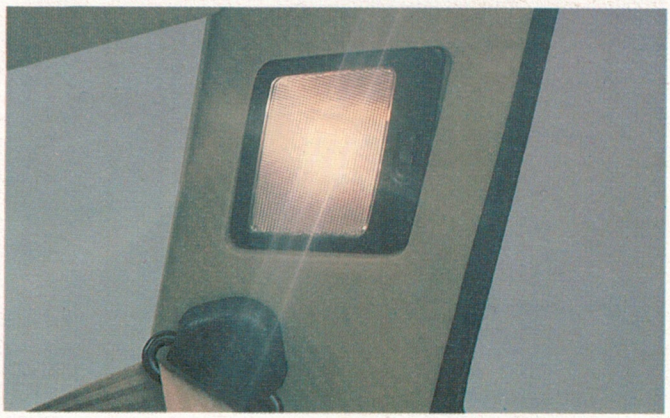
Minor features on all Rover models include grab handles, coat hooks, rear door courtesy light and an ashtray on the end of the extended centre console. Anti-burst door locks and childproof catches provide important safety benefits and the sculptured rear seats, with folding centre armrest, accommodate rear passengers in the comfort expected from an executive luxury saloon.

3500 SE over 2600 S

Three major features contributing to safety and convenience distinguish the 3500 SE from the 2600 S.

Reading lamps

Individual reading lamps are mounted on the back 'D' post.



Rear cigar lighter

For the convenience of rear passengers who smoke a cigar lighter is fitted on the extended centre console.

From the photographs, what other major feature differentiates the 3500 SE from the 2600 S model?

Rear seat belts.

Rear seat belts
For additional security, seat belts are fitted as standard on the 3500 SE models, and are available as an option on other models.

Vanden Plas over 3500 SE

In addition to the drop-in footwell carpets the Vanden Pls has two major features that differentiate it from the 3500 SE.

Seat back pockets
These useful elasticated pockets easily accommodate maps and magazines.

From the photographs identify what the other major feature is that differentiates the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

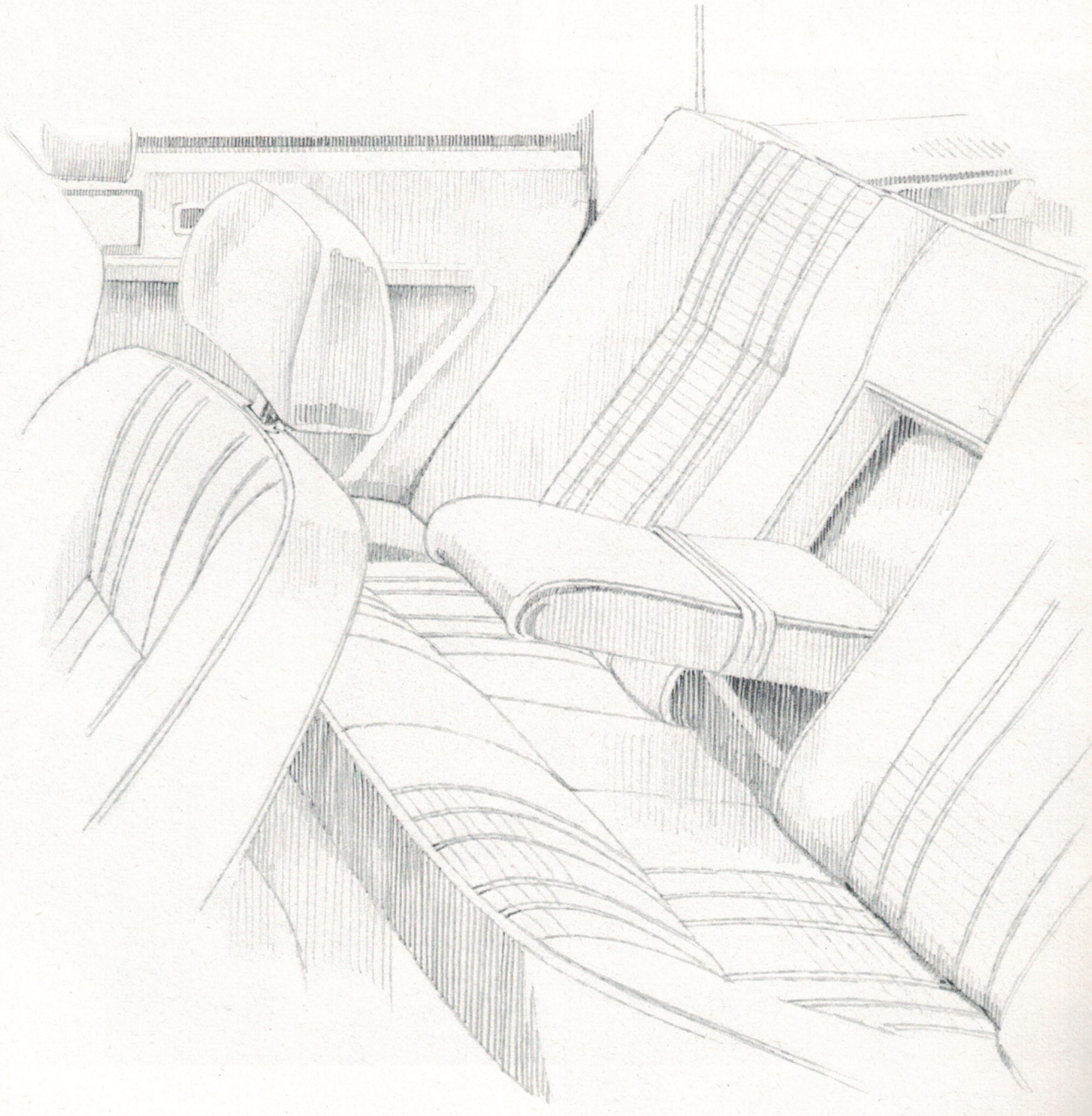
Rear head restraints with detachable cushions.

Rear head restraints with detachable cushions
The head restraints not only provide additional safety for rear seat passengers, but also extra comfort from the detachable head restraint cushions. The head restraints and rear seats shown in the photographs, are trimmed with the no-cost optional hairline velvet.

In addition to the seat belts and cigar lighter, what other two major features of the rear compartment differentiate the Rover 3500 SE from the 2600 S model?

Reading lamps and seat back pockets.

Check your knowledge of this short section by ensuring you can answer the questions correctly in the following test.



End of Section Test

1. What three interior features differentiate the Rover 3500 SE from the 2600 S?

2. What two major features differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

Answers

1. What three interior features differentiate the Rover 3500 SE from the 2600 S?

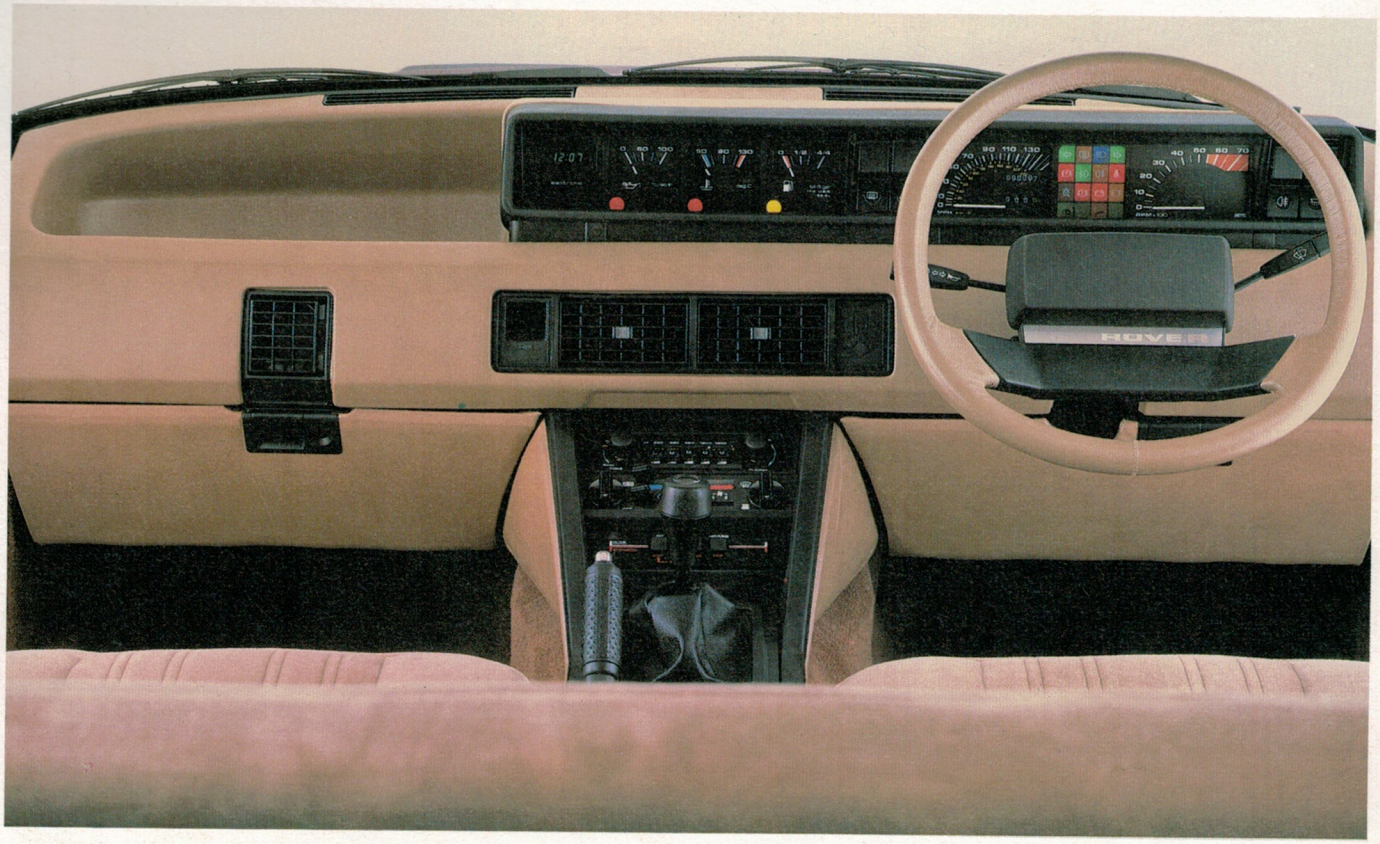
a) Reading lamps.
b) Rear seat belts.
c) Rear cigar lighter.

2. What two major features differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

a) Seat back pockets.
b) Rear seat head restraints with detachable cushions.

6

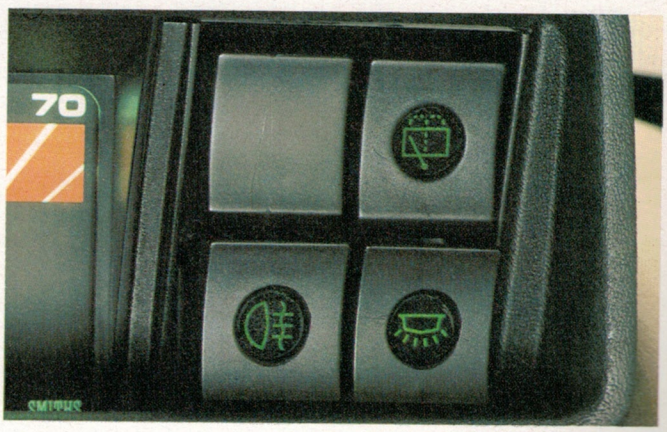
The Rover marque has always embodied the very highest levels of equipment and features, which are still further developed for the 1982 models. The binnacle houses the new quartic graphic instruments and a host of warning lights. The interiors are entirely colour-keyed, with upholstery ranging from the attractive plain velour on the 2000 to the luxurious leather on the Vanden Plas. The high levels of equipment include centre locking on the 2300 S, electric windows on the 2600 S, radio/stereo cassette player on the 3500 SE and cruise control and trip computer on the Vanden Plas.

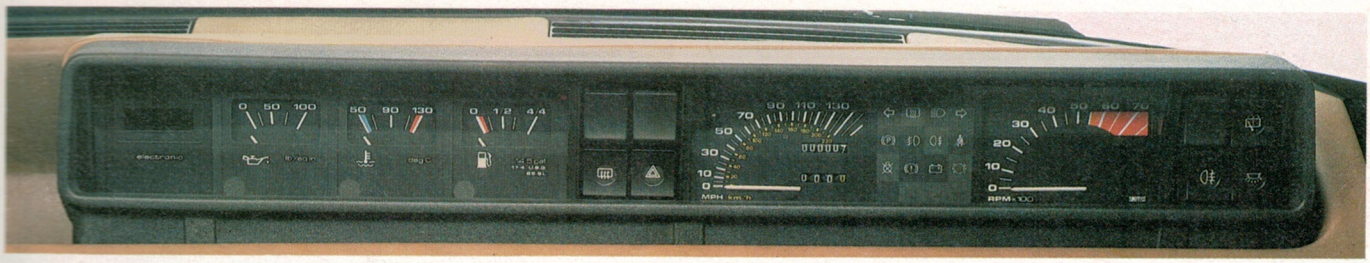


Controls and instrumentation

The wide low-profile instrument binnacle provides a comprehensive display of information and enhances the high levels of equipment and features that are expected of Rover. The speedometer and tachometer have new style quartic graphics and in between them is the revised central warning light panel. All of these instruments are clearly visible behind the new soft-feel leather bound steering wheel.

The major switches are illuminated for safe night time driving and are conveniently grouped at each side of the main instrument panel. The group of three switches on the right hand side are for rear fog-guard lamps, interior light, rear window wash/wipe and front fog lamps when fitted. The top switches on the left hand side of the binnacle are for the heated rear window and hazard warning lights. To the left of these switches are the oil pressure, temperature and fuel tank gauges, and the new digital clock with stop watch function. The long centre console houses the push-button radio, heater controls, stopwatch buttons and cigar lighter.



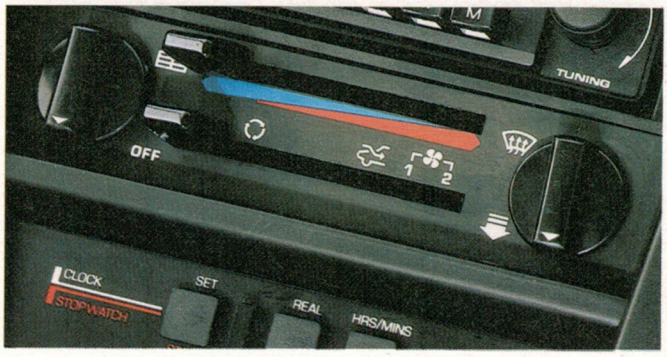


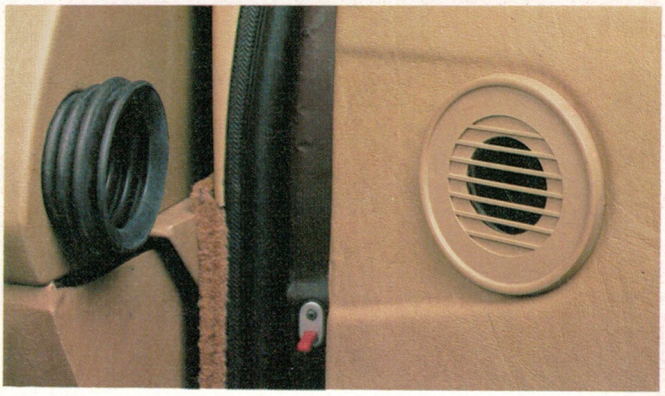
Warning systems

In the centre of the instrument panel is a comprehensive array of warning lights. These include indicators, main beam, heated rear window, handbrake on, rear fog lamps, seat belts, bulb failure (for front parking lamps, tail lamps and stop lamps), brake fluid level, ignition and brake pad wear. There is a warning light for front fog lamps when they are fitted, and on the six and eight-cylinder models an oil level warning light is included. A further warning light displays a caravan, which will glow in unison with the direction indicators when a caravan or trailer is being towed. Oil pressure, low coolant and low fuel warning lights are situated by their respective gauges in the centre of the fascia.

Heating and ventilation

The excellent heating and ventilation system has illuminated controls that can be easily adjusted to provide the desired ambient temperature irrespective of weather conditions outside. A recirculation position is available on the air control, which is of particular benefit in heavy traffic conditions to avoid drawing in exhaust fumes. A two-speed fan ensures rapid warm up inside the car and efficient demisting of the windscreen, whilst the side windows are demisted by warm air piped into the doors.





2000 and 2300 features

A strikingly attractive feature of the Rover is the completely colour-keyed interior. On the 2000 and 2300 models the plain velour seat facings are complemented by toning and matching colours in the carpets, fascia, door casings, seat belts and brush nylon headlining to give a sophisticated, fully co-ordinated appearance.

The front seats are fitted with head restraints, and the adjustment for the backrest angle is controlled by a continuously variable handwheel, conveniently positioned on the inboard side of the front seats.

2300 S over 2300 - seats

Two major features provide additional comfort and luxury on the 2300 S.

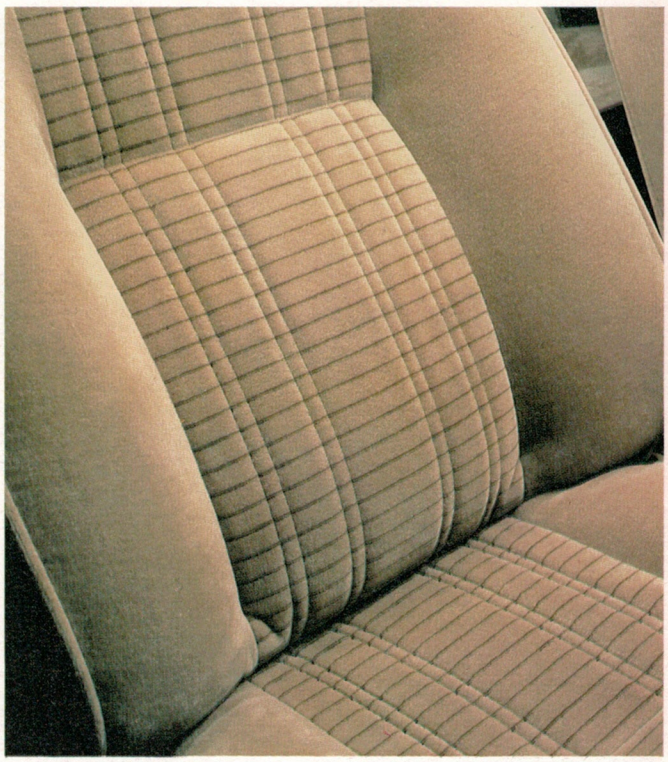
Lumbar support adjustment

The adjustable lumbar support makes a real difference to long distance comfort, and a genuine contribution to creating a healthier back posture for the driver and front seat passenger.

The additional support at the base of the seat back can be adjusted by the central knob on the reclining seat control wheel.

From the photographs, what other major feature of the seats differentiates the 2300 S from the 2300?

Plain and pin striped velvet seat facings.



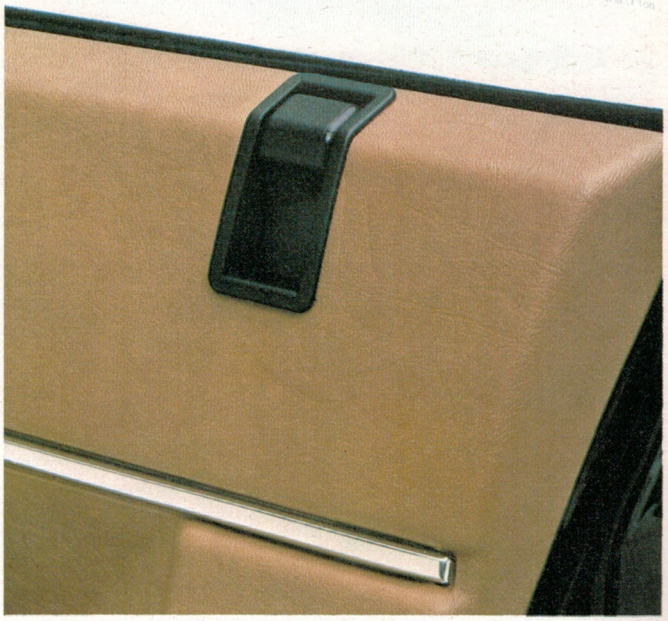
Plain and pin-striped velvet seat facings
The seat facings of the 2300 S have pin-striped velvet centre panels and plain velvet extending over the borders, seatbacks and head restraints.

2300 S over 2300 - equipment

Minor features contributing to the extra equipment of the 2300 S include illuminated glovebox and a map reading light. In addition there is one major item of equipment that distinguishes the 2300 S from the 2300.

Centre locking
On the 2300 S the electrically-operated centre locking system controls all five door locks. The master rocker switch is located in the top rail on the driver's door. From the outside, all five doors are locked or unlocked when turning the key in either of the front doors. The electric locking system can be overridden by manual operation of the interior rocker switches on each side door, and by using the key in the external lock on the fifth door.

The tailgate and glovebox can also be locked with a key independently of the centre locking system - an important security asset when leaving the car for servicing.



In addition to the plain and pin-striped velvet seat facings, what is the other major feature associated with the seats that differentiates the 2300 S from the 2300?

Lumbar support adjustment.

2600 S over 2300 S

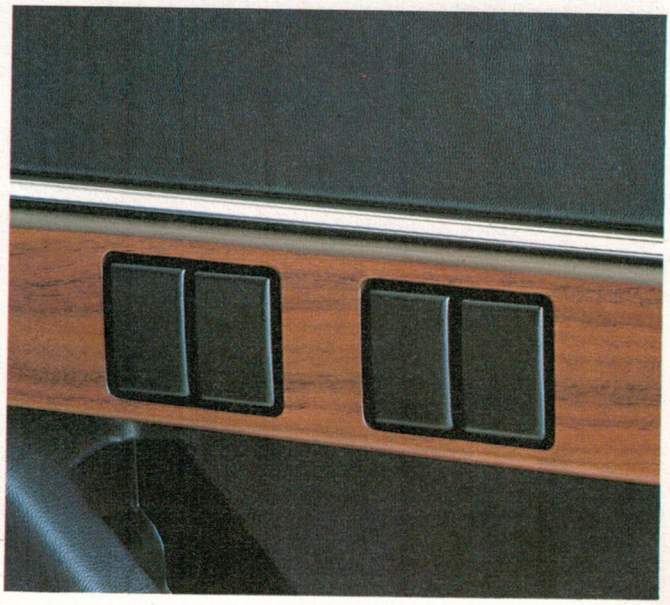
The 2600 S shares all the interior features of the 2300 S and in addition has a further two major features.

Satin wood door inserts

The satin wood door inserts provide that touch of opulence that has always been associated with Rover.

Electric windows

The electrically operated window lifts are controlled centrally by the driver or individually by passengers. For extra security there is a rear window isolator switch on the instrument binnacle which, when pressed, renders the rear door windows inoperative.



What is the major item of equipment that distinguishes the 2300 S from the 2300?

Centre locking.

3500 SE over 2600 S

The executive levels of comfort and equipment on the 3500 SE include a courtesy lamp delay, gloss finish burr walnut door inserts and carpet kick strips. In addition to these minor features the 3500 SE has three major features that distinguish it from the 2600 S model. One of these is the electrically-operated door mirrors covered earlier in position three.

Radio/stereo cassette player

Most executive saloons now feature a radio of some sort, but far fewer offer a cassette player as standard and none rival the quality of the one fitted in Rover. With the cassette in full stereo and four speakers with a front/rear balance control, this system greatly enhances driving pleasure. To complete this quality in-car entertainment system, there is an electric aerial and a cassette stowage box in the centre console.

In addition to the radio/stereo cassette player, the 3500 SE has one other major feature that differentiates it from the 2600 S. From the photographs, what is the third major feature?

Hairline velvet seat facings.

Hairline velvet seat facings
The sumptuous hairline woven velvet extends right round the seat backs and over the head restraints, giving the Rover 3500 SE a truly luxurious appearance.

Vanden Plas over 3500 SE

The first impression gained from the interior of the Rover Vanden Plas is that nothing has been too much trouble in ensuring the highest standards of refinement, elegance and luxurious comfort - as of course befits the top model of an outstanding range.

Loose footwell carpets, detachable head restraint cushions and burr walnut fascia inserts are examples of the extra touch of luxury. In addition, there are four major features which distinguish the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE.

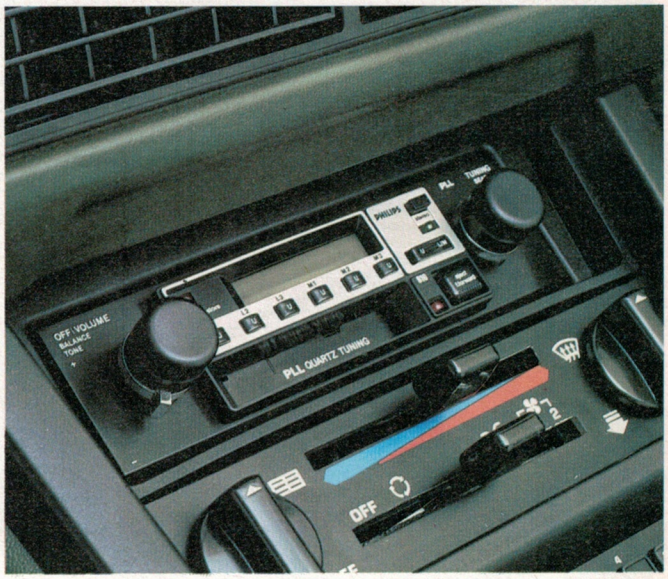
From the photograph, what is the major distinguishing feature of the seats?

Leather seat facings.

Leather seat facings
Leather is generally regarded as the ultimate material for car seat upholstery for comfort, appearance, durability and, it must be said, sheer class. It is therefore the natural choice for the Vanden Plas, the ultimate Rover. Hairline velvet is also available as a no-cost option.

The other three Vanden Plas differential features are items of equipment that provide a unique combination for the discerning executive.

Stereo radio and cassette player
The stereo radio and cassette player is a sophisticated, high quality unit that has a quartz-crystal digital display for the frequency. The push-buttons ensure accurate station location, so important for good reception on the FM stereo waveband.



Cruise control
The Vanden Plas is now fitted with the valuable refinement of cruise control. This electronic system responds to road conditions, such as gradient and wind, to maintain the speed selected by the driver. The system is set into operation by a switch located on the left hand column stalk.

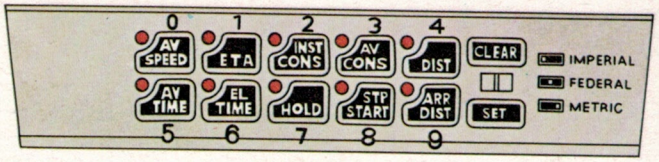
Comfort is an obvious major benefit because the driver is freed from working the throttle on hills and from holding his foot in one position for steady cruising on the flat. With one less control to operate, driving is also safer. And as the electronic system can control fuel used far more precisely than the average driver, it is an aid to fuel economy as well.

Two of the three major features that differentiate the 3500 SE from the 2600 S are electrically operated door mirrors and hairline velvet seat facings. What is the other one?

Radio/stereo cassette player.

Trip computer

The trip computer provides an informative aid to make driving more interesting by recording and presenting on request journey times and fuel consumption data. The latter facility enables the driver to monitor the car's fuel consumption rates, relate them to driving techniques and to obtain optimum fuel economy.



When a function button is pressed a corresponding indicator light will show the function operating and the required information will be displayed. The display for each function, except time, can be either Imperial, Federal (USA), or Metric units.

Entering data

The buttons 'CLEAR & SET' are used when entering a data programme.

'CLEAR'

Press the button for three seconds to reset all trip data to zero. The stopwatch is only affected if this is done while displaying stopwatch.

'SET'

The 'SET' button is used to programme the computer after entering data, for example time and expected journey distances etc.

Setting the computer

Clock

1. Press the button 'TIME' followed by the button 'SET' (the word 'Set' will be displayed).
2. Key in the actual time by pressing the buttons adjacent to the appropriate number, e.g. to set the time at 04:15 press the buttons 0415. (The display will show '415').
3. Press 'SET' to start the clock and the colon will flash.

Calendar

1. Press the button 'TIME' twice and the button 'SET' once, (the word 'Set' will be displayed).
2. Key in the correct day and month by pressing the buttons adjacent to the appropriate numbers; e.g. to set the date 1 May press the buttons 0105, (the display will show '1 05').
3. Press 'SET', the date will be displayed for three seconds and then automatically change to time.

Journey distance

1. Press the 'CLEAR' button for three seconds. Press the button 'ARR. DIST.' followed by the button 'SET', (the word 'Set' will be displayed).
2. Key in the journey distance by pressing the buttons adjacent to the appropriate numbers, noting that the last numer you key in represents the decimal point; e.g. for 465.5 miles or kilometres press the buttons 4655, (the display will show '465.5).
3. Press 'SET'.

Operating the trip computer

By pressing the buttons the following information can be displayed.

0 - 'AV. SPEED' - average speed

The average speed for the journey so far, the computer will only display this information when the journey is within a time period of 60 hours.

1 - 'E.T.A.' - estimated time of arrival

The estimated time that you will arrive at your destination if you continue at your current speed, provided you keyed into the computer the length of the journey before you set off.

2 - 'INST. CONS' - instantaneous fuel consumption

Instantaneous fuel consumption which is continually updated every three seconds.

3 - 'AV. CONS' - average fuel consumption

The average fuel consumption over the journey so far is displayed. The computer will only display this information when the fuel consumed does not exceed 100 gallons or litres.

4 - 'DIST' - trip distance

The distance travelled so far on a journey up to a maximum of 999.9 miles or kilometres.

5 - 'TIME' - time and calendar date

For time press once, the time is displayed in hours and minutes and will be in 24 hour digital form. For calendar date press twice, the date and month will show for three seconds before returning automatically to hours and minutes.

6 - 'EL. TIME' - elapsed time

The time taken for any journey since the 'CLEAR' button was pressed is displayed in minutes and seconds for the first hour (the display changing every second), and thereafter hours and minutes for up to 60 hours (with the colon flashing).

7 - 'HOLD'

To suspend all functions during a stop or break in the journey, press the 'HOLD' button once and the word 'hold' will be displayed. When the journey is re-started again press 'HOLD' and all functions will operate.

With the 'HOLD' button pressed all functions are suspended, information can be requested and displayed, butit will not be altered further until the 'HOLD' button is pressed a second time.

8 - 'STP. START' - stopwatch/start

By pressing the 'STP. START' button, stopwatch time in minutes and seconds is displayed. Subsequent pressing of the button will start and stop the stopwatch. After each hour the stopwatch will zero automatically and continue counting time in minutes and seconds. When stopwatch display has been requested, you can zero the stopwatch by momentarily pressing the 'CLEAR' button, this will not affect other trip data unless the 'CLEAR' button is pressed for three seconds.

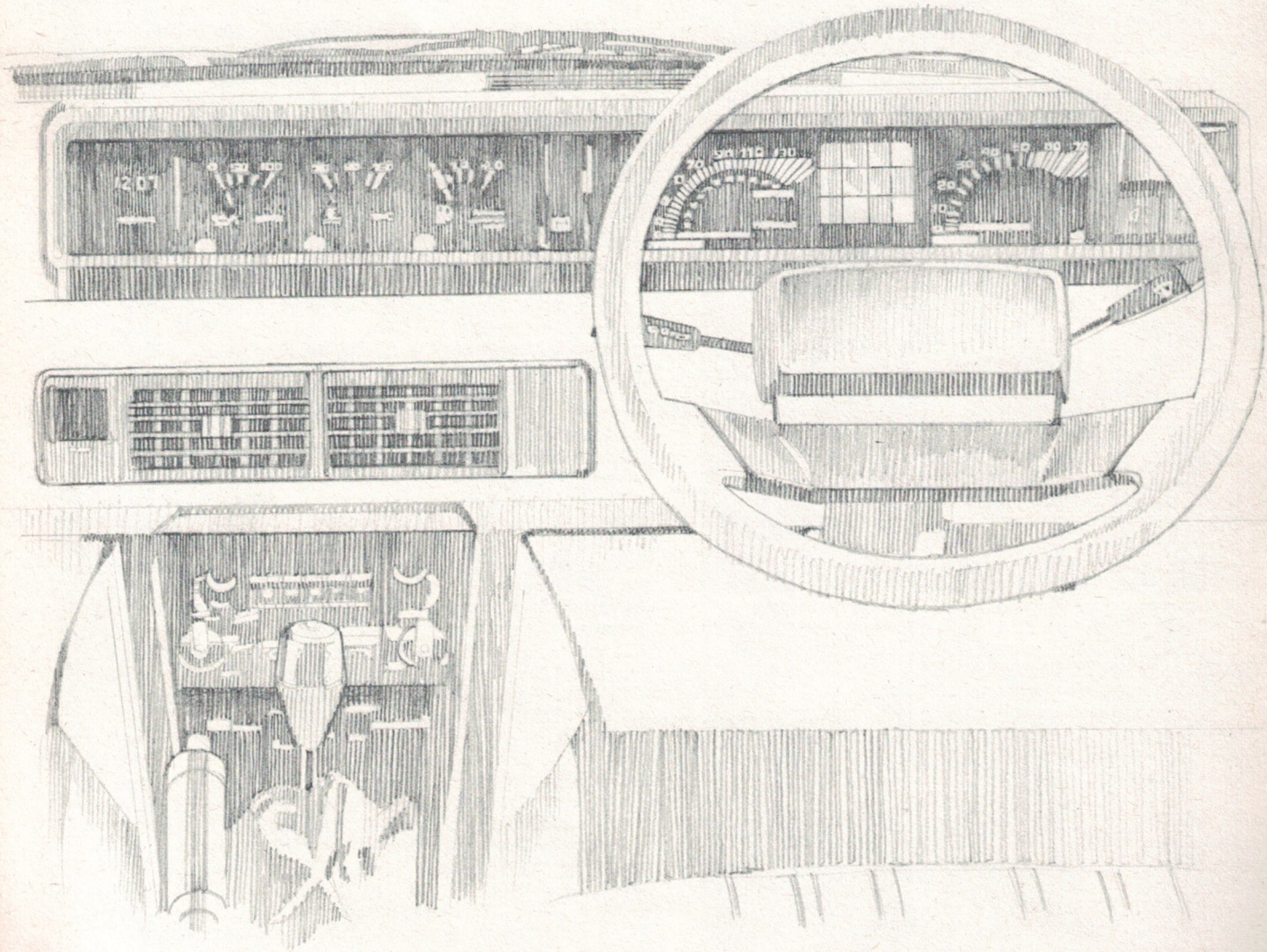
9 - 'ARR. DIST' - distance to destination

The expected journey distance remaining, provided the journey length has been entered before you set off.

The trip computer is one of the four features that differentiates the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE. What are the other three?

Leather seat facings, stereo/radio and cassette player and cruise control.

Now that you have completed this section, ensure that you can answer every question correctly in the following test. Then check your knowledge of all Rover's many features and benefits before tackling the Final Test.



End of Section Test

1. What are the two major features of the seats that differentiate the Rover 2300 S from the 2000?

2. What major feature of equipment differentiates the Rover 2300 S from the 2300?

3. What major feature differentiates the Rover 2600 S from the 2300 S?

4. What three major features differentiate the Rover 3500 SE from the 2600 S?

5. What four major features differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

Answers

1. What are the two major features of the seats that differentiate the Rover 2300 S from the 2000?

a) Lumbar support adjustment.
b) Plain and pin striped velvet.

2. What major feature of equipment differentiates the Rover 2300 S from the 2300?

Centre door locking.

3. What major feature differentiates the Rover 2600 S from the 2300 S?

Electric windows.

4. What three major features differentiate the Rover 3500 SE from the 2600 S?

a) Radio/stereo cassette player.
b) Electrically operated door mirrors.
c) Hairline velvet seat facings.

5. What four major features differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

a) Leather seat facings.
b) Stereo radio and cassette player.
c) Cruise control.
d) Trip computer.

ROVER FINAL TEST

The Rover final test follows and if you have learnt all the points in the end of section tests you have every chance of scoring 100%. Certificates will be issued to all salesmen who achieve the high standards required - gold for 90% and over, silver for 75%-90% and bronze for 60%-75%

Rover Final Test - Questions

1

1. What are the two major safety features fitted to all Rover models?

2. What two additional safety features are fitted to the Rover 2300?

3. What are the two major features that differentiate the 2300 S from the 2300?

4. What are the two major features that differentiate the 3500 SE from the 2600 S?

5. What are the two major features that differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

6. What is the width of Rover?

2

1. What is the steady 56 mph fuel consumption of the Rover 2000?

2. What is the 0-60 mph acceleration time of the Rover 3500 SE?

3. What is the inerval between services on Rover?

3

1. How long is Rover?

2. What are the four major benefits of Rover's aerodynamic body style?

3. What two Rover features reduce the risk of fire in the event of a collision?

4a) What is the special design feature of Rover's front seat belts?
b) What benefit does it provide?

5. What are the two special features of Rover's acoustic package?

6. What two design features protect the sills from corrosion?

7. What two additional design features help to minimise corrosion?

8. What type of rear suspension is fitted to:
a) Rover 2000 and 2300 models?
b) Rover 2600 S, 3500 SE and Vanden Plas?

9. How many turns of the steering wheel does rover have lock-to-lock with
a) Manual steering?
b) Power-assisted steering?

10. What is Rover's turning circle, kerb to kerb?

11. What type of dual-system brakes are fitted to all Rovers?

12. What two exterior features differentiate the S models from the 2300?

13. What four major features differentiate the 3500 SE from the 2600 S?

14. What three major features differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

4

1. What is Rover's usable boot capacity with the parcel shelf and floor boards in position?

2. What is Rover's loadspace (to glass level) with the rear seat folded down?

3. What is Rover's fuel tank capacity?

4. What feature of the loadspace differentiates the Rover 2300 S from the Rover 2300?

5. What exterior feature differentiates the Rover Vanden Plas from the Rover 3500 SE?

6. What is the recommended maximum towing capacity for each Rover model?

5

1. What three interior features differentiate the Rover 3500 SE from the 2600 S?

2. What two major features differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

6

1. What are the two major features of the seats that differentiate the Rover 2300 S from the 2000?

2. What major feature of equipment differentiates the Rover 2300 S from the 2300?

3. What major feature differentiates the Rover 2600 S from the 2300 S?

4. What three major features differentiate the Rover 3500 SE from the 2600 S?

5. What four major features differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

Rover Final Test - Answers

Score

1

1. What are the two major safety features fitted to all Rover models?	a) Laminated screen. b) Halogen headlamps.	1 1
2. What two additional safety features are fitted to the Rover 2300?	a) Intermittent wipe. b) Programmed wash/wipe.	1 1
3. What are the two major features that differentiate 2300 S from the 2300?	a) Bright bumper top face. b) Colour keyed spoiler.	1 1
4. What are the two major features that differentiate the 3500 SE from the 2600 S?	a) Bronze tinted glass. b) Front fog lamps.	1 1
5. What are the two major features that differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?	a) Zone tinted windscreen. b) Headlamp pressure wash.	1 1
6. What is the width of Rover?	5 ft 10 ins.	1

2

1. What is the steady 56 mph fuel consumption of the Rover 2000?	42.6 mpg.	3
2. What is the 0-60 mph acceleration time of the Rover 3500 SE?	8.9 secs.	3
3. What is the interval between services on Rover?	12,000 miles/12 months.	1

3

1. How long is Rover?	15 ft 5 ins.	1
2. What are the four major benefits of Rover's aerodynamic body style?	a) Better performance. b) Greater economy. c) Improved stability. d) Reduced wind noise.	2 2 2 2
3. What two Rover features reduce the risk of fire in the event of a collision?	a) Location of the fuel tank in front of the rear axle. b) Automatic fuel pump cut-out.	2 2
4a) What is the special design feature of Rover's front seat belts? b) What benefit does it provide?	a) The belts are anchored to the seat slides. b) Correct positioning of the seat belt at all times.	2 2
5. What are the two special features of Rover's acoustic package?	a) Bitumastic sheet fused to the floor. b) Felt pad fitted under the bonnet.	1 1

		Score
6. What two design features protect the sills from corrosion?	a) Use of zinc-coated steel. b) Pressure ventilation.	2 2
7. What two additional design features help to minimise corrosion?	a) Smooth wheelarches. b) Aluminised exhaust.	2 2
8. What type of rear suspension is fitted to: a) Rover 2000 and 2300 models? b) Rover 2600 S, 3500 SE and Vanden Plas.	a) Variable rate coil springs and telescopic dampers. b) Self-levelling units and low rate coil springs.	2 2
9. How many turns of the steering wheel does Rover have lock-to-lock with a) Manual steering? b) Power-assisted steering?	a) 4.5. b) 2.7.	2 2
10. What is Rover's turning circle, kerb to kerb?	34 feet 4 inches.	2
11. What type of dual-system brakes are fitted to all Rovers?	Front and rear split.	2
12. What four major features differentiate the 2300 S models from the 2300?	a) Manual sunroof. b) Stainless steel wheel finishers.	1 1
13. What four major features differentiate the 3500 SE from the 2600 S?	a) Electrically-operated door mirrors. b) Coachline. c) Alloy wheels. d) Mudflaps front and rear.	1 1 1 1
14. What three major features differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?	a) Electrically-operated sunroof. b) Machined rim alloy wheels. c) Side rubbing strip.	1 1 1

4

1. What is Rover's usable boot capacity with the parcel shelf and floor boards in position?	12.3 cu.ft.	2
2. What is Rover's loadspace (to glass level) with the rear seat folded down?	44 cu.ft.	2
3. What is Rover's fuel tank capacity?	14.5 gallons.	2
4. What feature of the loadspace differentiates the Rover 2300 S from the Rover 2300?	Carpeted loadspace.	1
5. What exterior feature differentiates the Rover Vanden Plas from the Rover 3500 SE?	Bright tail pipe finisher.	1
6. What is the recommended maximum towing capacity for each Rover model?	a) 2000 - 25 cwt. b) 2300/2600 - 26 cwt. c) 3500/Vanden Plas - 30 cwt.	2 2 2

Score

5

1. What three interior features differentiate the Rover 3500 SE from the 2600 S?

a) Reading lamps. 1
b) Rear seat belts. 1
c) Rear cigar lighter. 1

2. What two major features differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

a) Seat back pockets. 1
b) Rear seat head restraints with detachable cushions. 1

6

1. What are the two major features of the seats that differentiate the Rover 2300 S from the 2000?

a) Lumbar support adjustment. 1
b) Plain and pin striped velvet. 1

2. What major feature of equipment differentiates the Rover 2300 S from the 2300?

Centre door locking. 1

3. What major feature differentiates the Rover 2600 S from the 2300 S?

Electric windows. 1

4. What three major features differentiate the Rover 3500 SE from the 2600 S?

a) Radio/stereo cassette player. 1
b) Electrically operated door mirrors. 1
c) Hairline velvet seat facings. 1

5. What four major features differentiate the Vanden Plas from the 3500 SE?

a) Leather seat facings. 2
b) Stereo radio and cassette player. 2
c) Cruise control. 2
d) Trip computer. 2

Rover Facts Summary General Specification

	2000	2300/2300 S	2600 S	3500 SE	VDP
Engine					
Capacity (cc)	1994	2350	2597	3528	3528
	OHC	OHC	OHC	OHV	OHV
No. of cylinders	4	6	6	V8	V8
Bore (mm)	84.5	81	81	88.9	88.9
Stroke (mm)	89	76	84	71.1	71.1
Compression ratio: 1	9.0	9.25	9.25	9.35	9.35
Carburettors	2 SU HIF44	2SU HIF44	2 SU HIF44	Zenith	Zenith
Bhp at	100	118	130	155	155
rpm	5250	5250	5000	5250	5250
Torque (lb ft) at	120	134	152	198	198
rpm	3250	4000	3750	2500	2500
Transmission					
Gear Ratio					
1st	3.321	3.321	3.321	3.321	2.39
2nd	2.087	2.087	2.087	2.087	1.45
3rd	1.396	1.396	1.396	1.396	1.00
4th	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	—
5th	0.792	0.792	0.792	0.792	—
Reverse	3.428	3.428	3.428	3.428	2.09
Final drive	3.9	3.45	3.45	3.08	3.08
Mph/1000 revs - top gear	23.3	26.3	26.3	29.7	23.5
Automatic transmission	Opt	Opt	Opt	Opt	Std
Suspension					
Front	Independent MacPherson strut with anti-roll bar				
Rear	Live axle with variable rate springs and telescopic dampers		Live axle with low rate spring and combined damper plus self-levelling struts		
Wheels and tyres					
Type - standard	Radial	Radial	Radial	Radial	Radial
- alloy wheel option			175HRx14	195/70HRx14	195/70HRx14
Pressure (p.s.i.)	175HRx14	175HRx14	195/70HRx14	Std	Std
Light loads	28/30	28/30	28/30	26/26	26/26
Heavy loads	30/32	30/32	30/32	26/30	26/30

	2000	2300/2300 S	2600 S	3500 SE	VDP
Steering					
Type	Rack and pinion	Rack and pinion	Rack and pinion	Rack and pinion	Rack and pinion
Power assist	Opt	Opt/Std (2300 S)	Std	Std	Std
Adjustable column	Std	Std	Std	Std	Std
Wheel diameter (in)	16.4 Max 15.5 Min	16.4 max 15.5 min	16.4 max 15.5 min	16.4 max 15.5 min	16.4 max 15.5 min
Turns lock to lock	4.5	4.5/2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Turning circle (ft)	34.25	34.25	34.25	34.25	34.25
Brakes					
Front	Disc	Disc	Disc	Disc	Disc
diameter (in)	10.15	10.15	10.15	10.15	10.15
Rear	Drum	Drum	Drum	Drum	Drum
diameter (in)	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0	9.0
Servo assistance	Std	Std	Std	Std	Std
Dual circuit	Std	Std	Std	Std	Std
Performance					
Maximum speed (mph)	104	114	118	122	114
0-60 (sec)	12.5	10.8	9.0	8.9	10.3
30-50 in 4th (sec)	10.1	10.0	8.4	7.9	4.2+
Source	BL Cars	Motor	Motor	Motor	Autocar + Kickdown
Fuel economy					
Overall (mpg)	N. A.	22	21	23	18
Touring (mpg)	N. A.	27	28	24	—
Typical (mpg)	N. A.	—	—	—	22
Source	Not tested	Motor	Motor	Motor	Autocar
Electrics					
Alternator output (amp)	65	55	55	55	55
Battery capacity (amp/hr)	50	50	66	66	66
Starter motor	Pre-engaged	Pre-engaged	Pre-engaged	Pre-engaged	Pre-engaged
Dimensions					
Length	15 ft 5 in	15 ft 5 in	15 ft 5 in	15 ft 5 in	15 ft 5 in
Width	5 ft 10 in	5 ft 10 in	5 ft 10 in	5 ft 10 in	5 ft 10 in
Height	4 ft 6 in	4 ft 6 in	4 ft 6 in	4 ft 6 in	4 ft 6 in
Wheelbase	9 ft 3 in	9 ft 3 in	9 ft 3 in	9 ft 3 in	9 ft 3 in
Track: front	4 ft 11 in	4 ft 11 in	4 ft 11 in	4 ft 11 in	4 ft 11 in
Track: rear	4 ft 11 in	4 ft 11 in	4 ft 11 in	4 ft 11 in	4 ft 11 in
Bootspace (cu ft)	12.3 seat up 44.0 seat down	12.3 seat up 44.0 seat down	12.3 seat up 44.0 seat down	12.3 seat up 44.0 seat down	12.3 seat up 44.0 seat down
Fuel tank capacity (gal)	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8	14.8
Kerbside weight (approx)	2888 lb	2914 lb	2978 lb	3139 lb	3139 lb
Towing weight (max)	25 cwt	26 cwt	26 cwt	30 cwt	30 cwt
Payload	1179 lb	1179 lb	1240 lb	1210 lb	1210 lb

Rover features

1

2000 model
Laminated screen
Two speed wipers
Flick wipe
Wiper arms concealed below bonnet line
Electric washers with fan spray and large capacity reservoir
Black plastic grille with bright finisher
Bright headlamp surrounds
Halogen headlamps
Black plastic moulded bumpers

2300
Additions/changes to 2000
Intermittent wipe
Programmed wash/wipe

2300 S/2600 S
Addition//change to 2300
Bright bumper top face
Colour keyed spoiler

3500 SE
Additions/changes to 2600 S
Bronze tinted glass
Twin front foglamps

Vanden Plas
Additions/changes to 3500 SE
Zone tinted screen
Larger capacity washer bottle
Headlamp power wash

2

2000 model
Interior bonnet release
Twin SU temperature compensated carburettors
Air temperature control intake
Pressure activated fuel cutout
Diagnostic servicing system
Viscous coupled fan
Twin tone horns
In-line four cylinder overhead camshaft engine
Five-speed gearbox

2300
Additions/changes to 2000
In-line six cylinder overhead camshaft engine

2300 S
Addition/change to 2300
Power steering

2600 S
Addition/change to 2300 S
2597 cc engine

3500 SE
Additions/changes to 2600 S
3528 cc aluminium V8 overhead valve engine
Transistorised electronic ignition

Vanden Plas
Addition/change to 3500 SE
Automatic transmission

3

2000/2300 models
Bright drip rail
Plastic trimmed D post
Black door frames
One piece front door glass
Internally adjustable passenger door mirror
Bright waist trim
Flush fitting chrome door handles
Radial ply tyres size: 175x14
Styled wheels
Front disc and rear drum brakes
Servo-assisted brakes
Divided braking system
Pressure reducing valve to prevent rear wheel locking
Independent coil spring front suspension with anti-roll bar
Live axle variable rate coil spring rear suspension
Zinc coated sill panels
Pressure ventilated sills
Wax injection of box sections
Underbody protection
Smooth inner wheel arches
Aluminised exhaust system

2300 S
Additions/changes to 2300
Stainless steel wheel finishers
Manual sunroof

2600 S
Additions/changes to 2300 S
Live axle low rate coil spring rear suspension with self-levelling struts

3500 SE
Additions/changes to 2600 S
Electric remote control passenger door mirror with demist
Coachline
Alloy wheels with 195 x 14 tyres
Mud-flaps front and rear

Vanden Plas
Additions/changes to 3500 SE model
Electric sunroof
Bodyside rubbing strip bright insert
Machined rim alloy wheels

4

2000/2300 models
Heated rear window
Opening tailgate
Folding rear seat
Rubber covered loadspace
Loadspace lamp courtesy operated by tailgate
Reversing lamps
Rear fog guard lamps
Locking fuel filler flap
Deep tailgate glass
Rear screen wash/wipe

2300 S/2600 S/3500 SE
Addition/change to 2300
Carpeted loadspace

Vanden Plas
Addition/change to 3500 SE
Bright tailpipe finisher

5

2000/2300 S/2600 S model
Grab handles with coat hooks
Rear door courtesy interior lamp
Rear centre armrest
Rear compartment heating
Childproof locks

3500 SE
Additions/changes to 2600 S
Rear seat belts
Rear cigar lighter
Reading lamps

Vanden Plas
Additions/changes to 3500 SE
Rear seat head restraints with detachable head restraint cushions
Map pockets on front seat backs
Drop-in footwell carpets

6

2000/2300 model
Cropped velour seat facings
Reclining front seats
Head restraints
Seat valances
Inertia reel seat belts mounted to seat slides
Concealed inertia reels
Brush nylon headlining
Ticket pocket in driver's visor
Vanity mirror in passenger's visor
Dipping rear view mirror
Energy absorbing fascia design
Low profile instrument binnacle
Instruments:
- Speedometer with trip odometer
- Temperature gauge
- Oil pressure gauge
- Fuel level gauge
- Digital clock with stopwatch function
- Panel lamp rheostat

Push-button radio
Twin door speakers
Warning lamps:
- Seat belts
- Brake failure
- Handbrake
- Oil pressure
- Ignition
- Oil level (2300 only)
- Bulb failure
- Low coolant
- Low fuel level
- Main beam
- Indicators
- Hazard
- Trailer

Through-flow ventilation
Fresh air vents
Two speed heater fan
Illuminated heater control
Side window demist
Fascia tray with mat
Fascia mounted coin tray
Twin under dash lockable bins
Centre console
Cut pile carpet
Gear lever gaiter
Leather rimmed steering wheel
Large safety pad on steering hub
Twin column stalks operating:
- Left - horn, headlamp dip/flash and indicators
- Right - wipers and washers

Illuminated switches
Cigar lighter
Trimmed interior posts
Door open warning lamps
Stainless steel tread strips
Internally adjustable door mirror
Colour keyed seatbelts

2300 S
Additions/changes to 2300
Plain and pin stripe fabric seat facings
Lumbar support adjustment
Automatic glovebox illumination
Map light
Stainless steel carpet retainers
Centre door locking

2600 S
Additions/changes to 2300 S
Electric windows
Satin finish wood door inserts

3500 SE
Additions/changes to 2600 S
Radio/cassette player
Four speakers with front to rear balance control
Electric remote-control door mirrors and demist
Electric radio aerial
Cassette stowage box
Hairline velvet seat trim
Gloss finish burr walnut door inserts
Door carpet kick strips
Courtesy lamp delay

Vanden Plas
Additions/changes to 3500 SE
Leather upholstery
Detachable front headrestraint cushions
Stereo radio/cassette player
Drop-in footwell carpet
Cruise control
Burr walnut fascia inserts
Trip computer

The information included in this booklet was, to the best of our knowledge, correct at the time of going to press. However, it cannot be guaranteed that all details will be correct at any later date. (January 1982).

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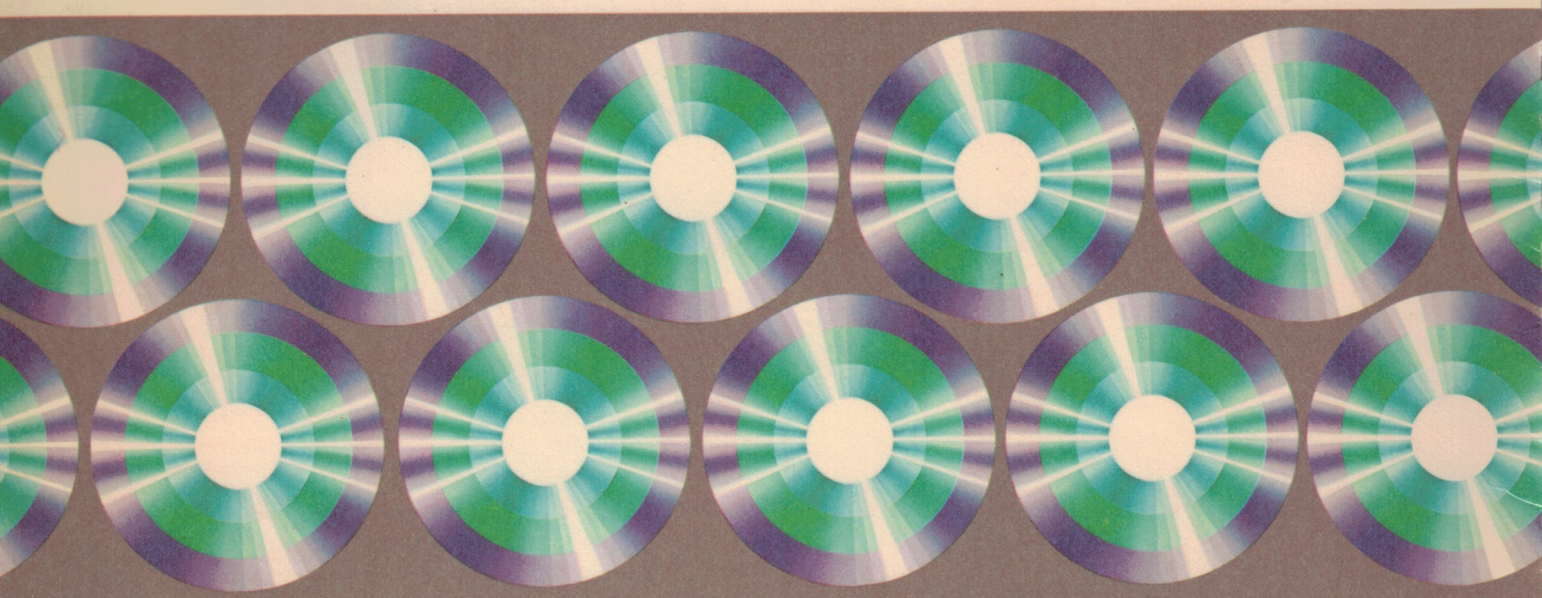
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